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BECAUSE THE GREAT GATSBY WASN'T DECADENT ENOUGH

LEO PLAYS A REAL HEDONIST PAGE 35

Cops can't get legal help on notes: Court

Families of two men killed by OPP officers argued that lawyers have no place in penning cop records PAGE 8

Let's keep the giant monster in Japan, OK?

Masterful Masahiro Tanaka may not get the chance to move to MLB, which is just fine by his teammates PAGE 66

No new taxes for transit? Go on, Mr. Hudak

Conservatives say sale of government lands, pension plan investments will help fund $2B-a-year trust PAGE 2

Presto may not be ready for the Pan Am Games

Electronic fare. But TTC CEO warns against rushing 'horrendously complicated' system

The TTC board wants the Presto electronic fare-card launch expedited after a staff report Thursday cast doubts on whether much of the system will be up and running in time for the Pan Am Games.

The installation schedule, a joint TTC-Metrolinx timeline, calls for Presto card readers to be on 50 new streetcars and in 23 subway stations by the end of 2014.

But since the equipment for the other 66 subway stations won't be procured until the end of next year, there will be little time left to install and test it for the summer of 2015.

"It was always my expectation we would have substantial completion for the Pan Am Games, and I've repeatedly said that on the record," said TTC chair Karen Stintz.

"Based on this schedule it's unlikely that we will meet our commitments," she said, after staff were directed to go back to Metrolinx and look at a revised schedule.

Given that Ottawa and every other transit system in the Toronto region are already using Presto, Stintz said she thinks the TTC can go faster.

TTC CEO Andy Byford said he's eager to get the cards working too. But, he said, "let's not progress so quickly the implementation goes wrong."

Presto on the TTC is "horrendously complicated," said Byford.

"I do not want to impose a system on Torontonians that is not yet proven. I want to make certain anything we procure works and works out of the box the first time."

Metrolinx spokeswoman Anne Marie Aikins said in an email that the company is "confident the plan we have in place will address the needs of the TTC and our customers. We expect Presto to be in place to serve key venues in time for Pan Am games."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Slipping

"Based on this schedule, it's unlikely that we will meet our commitments."
TTC chair Karen Stintz

CHAOS AFTER COLLAPSE

A man is wheeled out of the Apollo Theatre after its ceiling collapsed in London, Engand., on Thursday. Heaps of plaster, wood and dust showered down on a packed audience of about 700. More than 75 people were injured, with at least seven seriously wounded, while several trapped theatregoers had to be rescued. See story, page 17. SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NEWS 1

Hudak says downtown relief line is main priority

Building Great Cities. Tories' newly released transportation plan involves selling government assets but no new taxes

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said Thursday his party supports making a downtown relief line — with a new name — its first transit priority, but he wouldn't say what other transit projects the party would build, delay or cancel.

Hudak, alongside MPPs Doug Holyday and Jane McKenna, released the party's 15th and final white paper, which they called "Building Great Cities," in a press conference at Queen's Park.

The white paper outlines some transportation planning. The party would raise money for a $2-billion-a-year transportation infrastructure trust, which would be funded by a dedicated portion of revenue from economic growth, selling government-owned land, buildings and other assets, the commercialization of land in and above transit stations and pension-plan investments.

The first transit priority is building an "East-West Express Line," commonly known as the downtown relief line, in Toronto. Asked whether the line would service the east end alone, or include the west end and Don Mills, Hudak asked Holyday to answer.

Liberals strike back

- In response to Tim Hudak's announcement on Thursday, Transportation Minister Glen Murray released a letter to "all communities outside of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area," arguing that Hudak's plan will end up robbing health care and education budgets to pay for subways. He added "the divisive Hudak PC plan will pit region against region in order to pay for their expensive subway expansion plan."
- According to Murray the Liberals' plan to pay for transit has not yet been finalized, but new revenue — from a sales tax or gas tax increase, for example — will be spent on transit in the areas where it is raised, so that people outside of the GTHA will not be paying for GTHA transit.

"We would do the whole thing, it's just a matter of finding the money," said Holyday.

Hudak also did not say, when asked, which GTHA transit lines the party would build and which of the projects outlined under the Liberals' Big Move plan the party would want to build, cancel or delay.

"I think every day how am I going to help that young mother get her kids to school and to hockey and to get to work. The best way to do that, I believe, is building underground through subways, and where we have the dollars to do so, expanding highway capacity," Hudak said. "I don't believe in ripping up existing streets to put down new rail because that makes gridlock worse."

The plans would include subways to Richmond Hill and Mississauga as well as a subway "loop" in Scarborough, Hudak said.

The PCs also want to use modern technology to break gridlock — such as using electronic speed signs to vary speed limits to prevent traffic jams — saying it will be a key policy plank.

The PCs plan to fund transit expansion bears some similarity to the Liberal government's plans, including creating a dedicated trust, selling off some government assets — specifically the LCBO headquarters — and monetizing government-owned land.

However, the party has made it clear it doesn't support revenue tools such as a gas tax.

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak announced his party's transit plan on Thursday in Toronto.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Stintz seeks candidates for election slate

Karen Stintz is looking at open seats for the next municipal election.
CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayoral candidate Karen Stintz says she's assembling a slate of candidates to run in next year's municipal election.

"I'm looking at the open seats. I know Coun. (Doug) Ford won't be running again so I'll certainly be looking to run a candidate in that ward," said the councillor, following Thursday's TTC meeting.

"I think it's important to build a team. I believe I can work with council as it is, but where there's an open seat I think it's important to support a candidate I can work with," said Stintz, who is leaving her TTC chair position in February but hopes to remain on that board.

She was responding to comments made by Doug Ford earlier, inviting conservative candidates to call him or his brother, Mayor Rob Ford, on their private phone line.

Asked if that meant he's running a slate, Doug Ford said, "No. We aren't going to have a slate. We're going to support people that respect the taxpayers. We want people to respect the taxpayers, and the majority of these councillors down here do not respect the taxpayers."

He pointed to the names of councillors Maria Augimeri, Janet Davis, Paula Fletcher, Sarah Doucette and Paul Ainslie — a former ally with whom he had a major falling-out over Ainslie's opposition to the $2-billion Scarborough subway plan and its costliness to city taxpayers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"I think it's important to build a team. I believe I can work with council as it is, but where there's an open seat I think it's important to support a candidate I can work with."

Mayoral candidate Karen Stintz

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Pearson airport the gateway to a new life for Toronto newcomers

Crossing over.
Thousands in the GTA earn their living right where they arrived

Over the second half of Kevin Veerasamy's life — the one that started the day he arrived in Canada from Mauritius — one place has loomed larger than any other: Pearson International Airport.

It's where he first set foot on Canadian soil, and the place he now considers his community.

"I never dreamed of working at the airport," he says, "(Yet) I've been here for 11 years — it feels like my home. I spend most of my time here. I met my wife here."

For thousands of new Canadians like Veerasamy, who is now a pre-boarding terminal manager, Pearson isn't just the gateway to a new life, it's what sustains it.

"This is its own community," he says.

"A pretty big one. It's part of my life. The airport is part of my routine. It's part of me. It's my identity. It's in my blood — too much, sometimes."

While thousands of travellers will pass fleetingly through Pearson this season, jetting to warm beaches or arriving for family reunions, thousands of others have a completely different experience with the airport.

Veerasamy has moved 12 times since first entering Canada through Pearson in 2002. Each move has taken him closer to the airport, and he now lives in a part of Mississauga that's just a stone's throw away.

Much of Pearson's workforce, in fact, lives in surrounding neighbourhoods.

For Corina Salajan, home is just south of the airport, in neighbouring Etobicoke.

Asked if the work sometimes takes her back to the day she first landed in Canada from her native Romania, she becomes emotional.

"I came in 2000, from Transylvania," she says, wiping away tears. "I landed at Pearson. It was the fifth of May. I remember it; it was a nice day."

Like Veerasamy, she got a job at Pearson not long after landing there.

"The family that assisted my family, they lived close by. We rented an apartment next to them. The woman worked for an airline and she asked me to give my resumé."

About 40,000 people are employed by 900 companies at Pearson. A further 185,000 jobs supported by the airport's activities, according to the Greater Toronto Airports Authority.

Colleen Arnold, the Pearson-based regional director for global security firm Garda, speaks proudly about why so many of her company's 1,500 employees at the airport are recent immigrants.

"It's a very important job; they're maintaining the safety and security of the travelling public ..."

Arnold says their language skills are a big asset when working with clientele passing through from all over the world.

"I also think it's important for a company to reflect the city it's doing business in. Toronto's one of the most diverse cities in the world, and we have employees from several dozen countries." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Putting down roots

Many of the immigrant employees at the airport said they live close by simply because that's where they originally settled when they arrived, or because their ethnic community — most notably enclaves of South Asians — has put down Canadian roots in the area.

- **It's a common development.** London's Heathrow airport, for example, has also prompted the emergence of large immigrant neighbourhoods in nearby areas such as Southall and Hounslow.

Kevin Veerasamy and Corina Salajan take a break at Pearson International Airport's Terminal 1. Both first arrived in Canada at Pearson about a decade ago. For many, Pearson isn't just the gateway to a new life, it's what sustains it.
SAM GREWAL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Former Pan Am chief's severance payout kept from public

Ian Troop is seen during a press conference on May 23 in Toronto.
CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Pan Am Games officials are keeping secret how much former CEO Ian Troop will receive in severance after being fired last week.

Courtney Pratt, chair of the TO2015 human resources committee, says at best the public might find out in spring when the sunshine list — comprised of public servants making over $100,000 — comes out, and maybe not even until the spring of 2015.

"Implementation details are still being finalized and are a personal issue between Mr. Troop and TO2015. Compensation details will be included in the 2013 and/or 2014 annual salary disclosure for the sunshine list," Pratt said in an email to Torstar News Service.

The secrecy about public dollar compensation flies in the face of Premier Kathleen Wynne's promise to make such things more transparent.

Troop, who made $390,000 a year and stood to get a 200 per cent bonus if the games came in under budget, was dismissed last Friday. He will be replaced Jan. 6 by deputy health minister Saad Rafi.

Prior to his being dismissed, Troop had been under fire over his expenses, which were causing a political headache for Wynne's minority Liberal government.

Currently, TO2015 has about 300 employees and will be looking for about another 150 as the summer games approach. Sixty-four are senior staff.

Speaking to CBC Radio's Metro Morning, Wynne said, "We are going to take more direct control over the compensation packages."

"It means that there will be much more transparency into what those compensation packages are and we will have clearer guidelines about what they can be ..." she said.

Tory critic MPP Rod Jackson (Barrie) said he would not be surprised if the former Procter & Gamble executive walks with $1 million.

"Every dime of Ian Troop's money for his time at the Pan Am Games comes from the public taxpayer. And the taxpayer has a right to know and the expectation to know how their money is being spent," Jackson said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Enough is enough, sunshine

"I'm saying enough. The culture's not changing so we're going to take some control." Premier Kathleen Wynne

New study

Consumer debt to reach record in 2014

Canadian consumer debt is expected to rise to a record high by the end of next year due to a borrowing spree for new cars, home renovations and household items, says a new study released Thursday.

Average total debt, excluding mortgages, is expected to jump by more than $1,000 from an estimated $27,743 in the last three months to an all-time high of $28,853 by the end of 2014, according to TransUnion, one of Canada's largest credit bureaus.

The average consumer's debt is expected to rise by four per cent — about $4,500 higher than five years ago, says the firm's first annual forecast of Canadian consumer debt. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Icy precipitation

Nasty weather on track for weekend

A significant amount of precipitation in the form of snow, ice pellets, freezing rain and rain, is expected to hit Toronto and Southern Ontario by Friday and carry on into the weekend affecting holiday travel, according to Environment Canada.

In a special weather statement issued by Environment Canada on Wednesday, a line stretching from Kincardine to Barrie to Ottawa is likely to see mainly snow, including up to 10 cm in areas.

Areas south of this line, including Toronto and the GTA, will likely see mixed precipitation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Daniel Dale controversy

Black comments on Ford retraction

Asked for his thoughts about the fact Mayor Rob Ford had lied to him, Conrad Black borrowed the words of Chief Bill Blair.

"To quote the chief of police, 'I am disappointed,'" Black wrote in an email. "I hope that this is the beginning of a straighter course of conduct for him."

Conrad Black
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black, who has personally fielded considerable criticism for not challenging Ford during their 35-minute interview, remains unapologetic for his role in the controversy. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Ontario gets a little more Olivia

Baby names. Province releases data on 2012 newborn names — Olivia tops the list for girls, Liam for boys

When Paula Pereira was pregnant, she had one name in mind.

"A lot of my friends were telling me not to pick a name yet, because they were afraid that once you have the child, the name might not match the child," said Pereira, 33. "I just kept telling everybody that it was just going to be Olivia. I just loved the name so much."

Baby Olivia Saraiva is now eight months old — and the proud owner of the most popular girl's name in the province.

For the sixth year running, Olivia remained the most common name for girls born in Ontario, according to data from 2012 released by the province Thursday. Liam was the most popular boys' name for the second year in a row.

There were 143,234 births registered in Ontario in 2012. Liam was chosen 952 times, and Olivia 905 times. That means slightly more than 1 in 100 children born last year was named Liam or Olivia.

Olivia for the Wynne!

"Glad to see my granddaughter is so popular!"

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, celebrating the news on Twitter that Olivia was the No. 1 name for girls in the province

While Olivia was Pereira's first pick, she said she also considered Emma and Sophia, which coincidentally turned out to be the second and third most popular names for girls last year. Ava and Emily rounded out the top five.

For boys, Ethan, Jacob and Lucas were also popular picks in spots two through four, identical to the previous year. Benjamin snagged the fifth spot. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Eight-month-old Olivia Saraiva is the proud owner of the most popular girls' name in Ontario in 2012. CONTRIBUTED

'Women love money.' Ford gives gift-giving tips on American sports radio

In his third appearance on a Washington, D.C., sports radio station, Mayor Rob Ford made more comments about his wife, declaring "women love money."

Sports Junkies hosts Eric Bickel and John-Paul Flaim, noting that Ford is "well-off," asked him what he was getting his wife for Christmas.

"Probably just money; women love money," Ford said. "You give 'em a couple thousand bucks and they're happy."

Ford said he would get a nice card and "some treats on the side."

Ford's statements on women have gotten him into trouble in the past.

Last month, Ford publicly apologized, his wife at his side, for responding to allegations about sexual harassment by telling reporters he had "more than enough to eat at home."

In April, he offered to "explain how politics works" to women on his now-cancelled weekly radio show on Newstalk 1010.

And two weeks ago on the Sports Junkies show, Ford said women choose their football picks based on how attractive the players are.

"They just look to who's the cutest guy … that's how they pick 'em," Ford said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

He's the Cashman

"But at the end of the day, you know, she wants her cash. So I give her a nice cheque and we're all happy." Mayor Rob Ford

Robbie Bobbie. Shoppers get second chance to stuff the mayor into a stocking

After the success of last month's sale, a new round of Rob Ford bobbleheads will be available at City Hall on Friday.

Spokesman Amin Massoudi said that 1,000 bobbleheads will be sold for $20 each, with the proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society.

One of the new bobblehead dolls has already found its way onto EBay, selling for $27. The new doll is sporting a black suit, red tie and a large smile.

Last month's bobbleheads are also on EBay with exorbitant prices — one selling for as much as $533 and another for $426. Last month, more than 1,000 people lined up to purchase a bobblehead and the mayor spent five hours autographing them individually. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Rob Ford holds a Rob Ford bobblehead at City Hall on Nov. 12. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Independent review.
Orangeville cops seek probe of police board

Orangeville police officers want the province to investigate their bosses.

The Orangeville Police Association unanimously has requested that the Ontario Civilian Police Commission investigate "the adequacy and effectiveness of the Orangeville Police Service Board" in its Nov. 13 meeting.

The OCPC is a provincial oversight agency tasked with making sure that police forces follow the Police Services Act.

Police service boards are responsible for hiring and monitoring local police chiefs, establishing police policies and making sure those policies are followed.

Orangeville Police Association meeting notes obtained by Torstar News Service don't explain why the investigation was requested. Notes for the Nov. 13 meeting do note that the decision was made after consultation with a lawyer.

Torstar has also obtained a letter sent by Orangeville Police Association president James Giovannetti, in which he tells members of the request for an outside review of the force. No reasons are given in the letter for the association's request.

"As a result of ongoing concerns regarding the operation of the Orangeville Police Services Board, the OPA Executive unanimously decided to request that the OCPC conduct a review in to the adequacy and effectiveness of the OPSB," Giovannetti writes to members.

"This request is specifically in regards to the OPSB, and does not involve senior management of the Orangeville Police Service," Giovannetti continued.

Police services board chair Cynthia Rayburn and Mayor Rob Adams, who sits on the board, could not be reached for comment Thursday morning.

This isn't the first time in recent memory that officers have urged the province to investigate the force.

In 2010, former Orangeville police sergeant Curtis Rutt also requested that the province probe what he called widespread lack of training for officers.

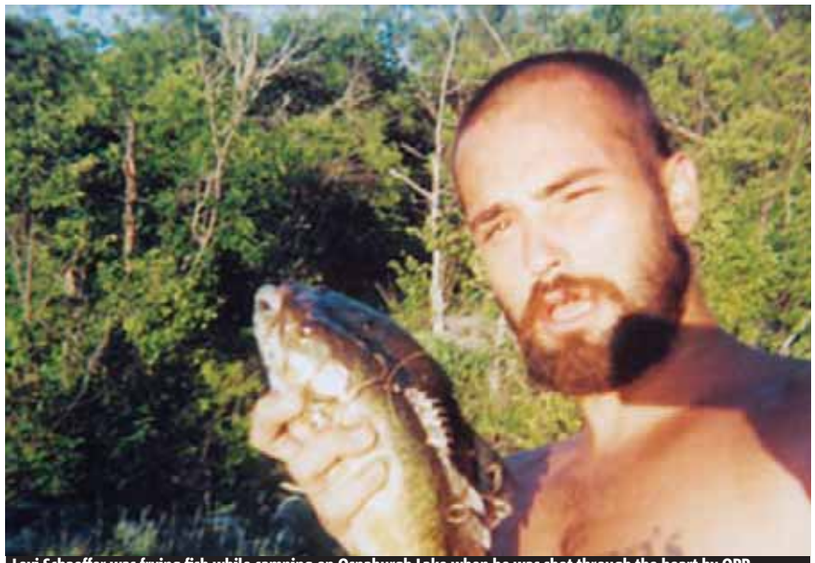
Rutt was subsequently charged under the Police Services Act with discreditable conduct, deceit and breach of confidence for allegedly leaking material to the media.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Curtis Rutt in front of Orangeville town hall, where his disciplinary hearing was held. PETER EDWARDS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lawyers, hands off police notes: Top court

OPP shootings.
Supreme Court upholds ruling that counsel can't help officers prepare notes in SIU cases



Levi Schaeffer was frying fish while camping on Osnaburgh Lake when he was shot through the heart by OPP. FROM WEBSITE JUSTICE FOR LEVI

After a four-year legal battle, Canada's top court has ruled that police officers under investigation are not able to have lawyers vet or help with their notes before they're submitted to the Special Investigations Unit.

The families of two men shot dead by Ontario Provincial Police officers argued before the Supreme Court that having a lawyer approve what ends up in the officers' notebooks is unacceptable. The court agreed.

"Permitting officers to consult with counsel before preparing their notes runs the risk that the focus of the notes will shift away from the officer's public duty toward his or her private interest in justifying what has taken place. This shift would not be in accord with the officer's duty," reads the ruling.

Supporters took to the Internet to celebrate the victory, posting a link to the decision with the text "WE WON!!!!" on the Facebook page for Levi Schaeffer, a 32-year-old man shot and killed by police.

A Torstar News Service investigation into the shooting death of Schaeffer revealed that police notes were written two days after the incident and with consultation from the same lawyer.

Ruth Schaeffer, Levi's mother, told The Canadian Press that she has spent the past four years and her life savings fighting this case.

"It's a significant and necessary step on the way to ensuring accountability from the public servants in Ontario who have the most extraordinary powers," she said.

Evelyn Minty, mother of Doug Minty, a 59-year-old man who was shot by police, told The Canadian Press she did it for her son and for families of those who are shot by police in the future. She said she thinks of her son every day.

Police argued they have the right to talk to a lawyer of their choosing before finalizing their notes.

In November 2011, Ontario's top court sided with the families of Minty and Schaeffer, two mentally ill men shot dead by police two days apart in June 2009.

"This is nothing less than a historical win for two families that have been battling for justice for years. What the Supreme Court of Canada has done is to actually protect confidence in policing," said Julian Falconer, the attorney acting for the families.

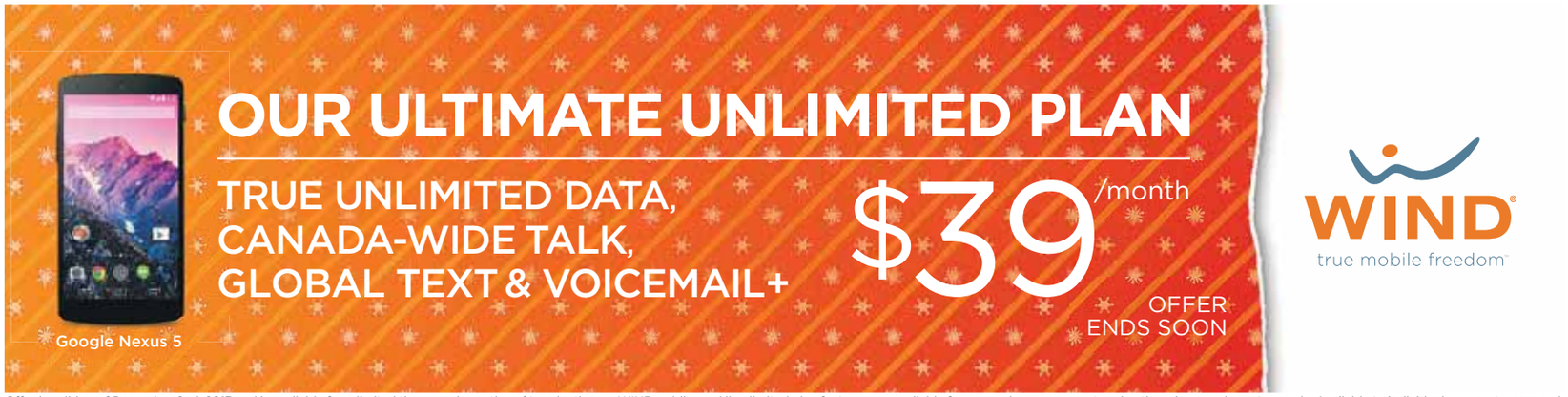
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

'A historical win'

"This, above all, is a proud legacy in respect of the deaths of both Levi Schaeffer and Doug Minty. What a wonderful day."

Julian Falconer, both families' lawyer

Evelyn and Doug Minty CONTRIBUTED



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YOUR SAFETY AND SECURITY IS THE TTC'S PRIORITY

ANDY BYFORD
CEO
TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

Last week's incident at Queen Station that saw police called to deal with an armed man brought into stark focus the need for vigilance on everybody's part in keeping the TTC safe and secure.

While such events are extremely rare on the subway, the TTC takes your safety and security very seriously. The TTC, in fact, is fitted with numerous features to keep you safe and to ensure assistance is always close at hand.

In addition to the presence of passenger emergency alarms on all trains, and closed-circuit cameras on the Toronto Rocket fleet, all subway stations feature security cameras, public telephones and designated waiting areas with two-way voice intercoms, that are monitored by station staff.

Training is equally important. I am pleased to announce that our year-long campaign (and Customer Charter promise) to restore Special Constable status to our team of Transit Enforcement Officers (TEOs) has been approved by the Toronto Police Services Board.

I see this as key in our effort to keep the system safe and secure as our TEOs will no longer have to wait for a police officer to arrive to deal with someone who has broken the law.

This additional status will be afforded to TEOs next year and goes hand-in-hand with other measures to put more staff into stations and on surface vehicles rather than at offices.

Finally, allow me to take this opportunity and wish all TTC customers and staff a very happy holiday season and healthy new year, and for those who celebrate, a very Merry Christmas. We'll see you back here on Jan. 3, 2013.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Name:
Sue Nicastro

Position:
Recognition Program and Special Events

Years of Service:
23

My job is to oversee the employee-recognition programs at the TTC. It brings me such great pride to oversee and administer the amazing milestones employees have achieved, be it through long service, or assisting with safety programs. Our company is as great as its employees and our recognition programs not only acknowledge their efforts, but help build morale within our employees that is reflected in their day to day jobs. I feel honoured and humbled to be given the opportunity to oversee these wonderful achievements!

TTC HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

DEC. 23
- **Weekday service; subway and most routes start at 6 a.m.**

DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
- **Weekday service; subway and most routes start at 6 a.m. Free parking at TTC parking lots after 3 p.m.**

DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
- **Sunday service; subway and most routes start at 9 a.m.**

DEC. 26 - BOXING DAY
- **Saturday service; subway and most routes start at 6 a.m.**

DEC. 27
- **Weekday service; subway and most routes start at 6 a.m.**

DEC. 28
- **Saturday service; subway and most routes start at 6 a.m.**

DEC. 29
- **Sunday service; subway and most routes start at 9 a.m.**

DEC. 30
- **Weekday service; subway and most routes start at 6 a.m.**

DEC. 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE
- **Travel free from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m., Jan. 1. Free parking at TTC parking lots after 3 p.m.; subway and most bus and streetcar service extended until approximately 4 a.m., Jan. 1.**

JAN. 1, 2014 - NEW YEAR'S DAY
- **Sunday service; subway and most routes start at 9 a.m. 2014 fare increase takes effect.**

JAN. 2 & 3
- **Weekday service; subway and most routes start at 6 a.m.**

SUBWAY SANTA

Santa and Mrs. Claus, played by TTC Communications Head Brad Ross and TTC Chair Karen Stintz, hand out candy canes at Bloor-Yonge Station. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from everyone at the TTC.

TTC EXTENDS THE USE OF THE FAMILY/GROUP DAY PASS

From Dec. 21 to Jan. 5, 2014, a TTC Day Pass provides unlimited one-day travel for a group of up to six people, maximum two adults and not more than four children/youths 19 years of age or under. The pass is valid from the start of service until 5:30 a.m. the next morning. The Day Pass costs $10.75. On Jan. 1, the price will rise to $11.

CORBY'S TAKING CARE OF THE FARE

On New Year's Eve, the Toronto Transit Commission will offer free, extended service from 7 p.m. on Dec. 31 to 7 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2014, thanks to a new, three-year partnership with Corby Spirit and Wine. "We are delighted to partner with the TTC to offer Torontonians a safe way to go to and from their festivities on New Year's Eve. As a company, we have zero tolerance for impaired driving and hope this partnership will further promote this message. Don't pay the price: enjoy this holiday season, and enjoy it responsibly by not drinking and driving and making sure no one around you does either," said Corby President and CEO Patrick O'Driscoll. Subway trains and most surface routes will operate until approximately 4 a.m., at which time the Blue Night Network will begin.

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CRTC

Canadian news to become top priority

Cable and satellite companies will be required to give their consumers the option of subscribing to Sun News Network and every other Canadian news channel, starting next spring.

Thursday's announcement by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission sets a mid-March deadline for cable and satellite companies to offer all Canadian news services either in bundles or a la carte.

"Canadian news services are an important part of our democracy," CRTC chair Jean-Pierre Blais said in a statement. "Canadians, as citizens, will have access to the news services that are of interest to them and will therefore have an opportunity to be exposed to a variety of opinions on matters of public concern."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Road kill?

Flipped rig spills tons of hams

A truck overturned in metro Atlanta, spilling tons of ham onto an interstate ramp.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports the truck was hauling 40,000 pounds of hams Thursday around 4 a.m. when it overturned, spilling its cargo south of Atlanta.

Authorities were working early Thursday to clear the ramp from Old National Highway to Interstate 85 southbound after the crash.

The cab of the truck was destroyed in the crash, which also caused a diesel fuel spill.

Truck driver, Rigo Vargas, said he was hauling the hams to Texas when he wrecked. He said he banged his head against the door when the rig flipped over, but wasn't seriously hurt.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford, seen here in 2010, is one of three women involved in a challenge to Canada's sex trade laws.

AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Sex trade awaits major Supreme Court ruling

Lengthy battle. Decision follows partially successful challenge of government's ability to control prostitution

A landmark Supreme Court ruling that could reshape Canada's sex trade comes down Friday — 34 years after the court last upheld the country's anti-prostitution laws.

The decision, which follows a partially successful challenge to the key elements of the government's ability to control prostitution, will be closely watched by sex-trade workers as well as by civil-rights, women's-rights and evangelical groups.

Lawyer Alan Young, who represented the three women challenging the laws, said in an interview he didn't have a good feeling about Friday's outcome but was trying to be optimistic.

"I just didn't feel when I was there that (the justices) were getting it," Young said

"(But) there are two very lengthy and comprehensive judgments in the courts below — the lower courts did a very good job."

In March last year, Ontario's top court struck down the law against brothels, saying it exposed sex workers to added danger by forcing them onto the streets.

The 132-page decision also modified a second law against living on the avails of the sex trade to specifically preclude exploitation.

The federal and Ontario governments appealed those two parts of the decision, arguing among other things that Ottawa was justified in the way it dealt with a "complex social problem."

At the same time, the court upheld a third element: The ban on soliciting for the purposes of prostitution, prompting the women who launched the challenge to cross-appeal that ruling.

The Ontario court decisions were put on hold pending the ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada, which heard oral arguments in June.

One of the women involved in the case, former prostitute Valerie Scott, of Toronto, said she feared a backlash from those implacably opposed to any prostitution — which is legal in Canada — if the laws do get struck down.

"They were angry at Appeal Court," Scott said.

"If we win at the Supreme Court of Canada, they're going to be even angrier."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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1100 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
3021 Argentia Rd.
789 Taunton Rd. E
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
2150 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W
60 Bristol Rd. E
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1065 Davis Dr.
18075 Yonge St.
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1905 Avenue Rd.
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149C Ravel Rd.
Fairview Mall
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5815 Yonge St.
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3040 Don Mills Rd., Unit 17B
Leslie Center
OAKVILLE
1027 Speers Rd., Unit 22
478 Dundas St. W, Unit 7
1500 Upper Middle Rd., Unit 2
240 Leighland Ave.
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Taunton Harmony Plaza
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1800 Sheppard Ave. E
Cedarbrae Mall
1900 Eglinton Ave. E
3300 McNicoll Ave.
1291 Kennedy Rd.
2555 Victoria Park Ave.
411 Kennedy Rd.
3495 Lawrence Ave.
1448 Lawrence Ave. E
5661 Steeles Ave. E, Unit 5
19 Milliken Blvd., Unit U
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1461 Dundas St. W
2 St. Clair Ave. E
272 Danforth Ave.
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662 King St. W, Unit 2
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9A Yorkville Ave.
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919 Bay St.
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1118 Finch Ave. W, Unit 1
6236 Yonge St.
3850 Sheppard Ave.
280 Spadina Ave.
4438 Sheppard Ave. W, Unit 151
900 Dufferin St., Kiosk 4010
1000 Gerrard St. E, Unit K2
618 Sheppard Ave. W
6758 Kingston Rd., Unit 12
730 Danforth Ave.
333 Bloor St. E
2120 Queen St. E
8 Wellesley St. E
1965-1971 Yonge St., Unit A
120 Front St. E
660 Eglinton Ave., Unit 104
3151 Yonge St.
808 York Mills Rd., Unit 15-17
2400 Eglinton Ave. W
2900 Warden Ave.
130 King St. W., Unit CW15
3401 Dufferin St., Unit 10B
1 Yorkdale Rd., Unit 180
1 Dundas St. W, Unit 2010
220 Yonge St., Unit H014
112-10 Dundas St. E
2901 Bayview Ave., Unit 128A
329 Parliament St.
200 Bay St., Unit UC – 132B
2248 Bloor St. W
330 Bay St.
4980 Yonge St.
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Canada's largest charities

Funds raised by donations, special events (in millions)

1. Canadian Red Cross: $287.0
2. World Vision: $282.2
3. Canadian Cancer Society: $188.4
4. Salvation Army: $180.9
5. Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada: $124.0
6. United Way Toronto: $116.9
7. SickKids Foundation: $ 110.1
8. Plan International: $107.1
9. Aga Khan Foundation Canada: $98.0
10. Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation: $80.3

(Source: Charity Intelligence Canada)

Volunteer hours logged

2.07B

The Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating said 94 per cent of Canadians aged 15 and up combined to donate $10.6 billion in 2010. Some 13.3 million people gave their time, combining for 2.07 billion hours of volunteer work — about the same as 1.1 million full-time jobs.

How

- Telemarketing is unpopular and door-to-door appeals have declined substantially. Prof. Charles Weinberg, of the University of British Columbia, says volunteer door-knockers are harder to find and residents may not be at home. If they are, they may not answer for fear of a scam. Supermarket checkout appeals and e-giving are among the alternatives.

Quoted

"Non-profit organizations have to be inventive, have to recognize that the way people part with their money is changing."

Prof. Charles Weinberg, of the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business

Giving less than Americans

0.64%

The Fraser Institute's 2013 Generosity Index found Canadians donated 0.64 per cent of their aggregate incomes to charity in 2011, half the 1.33 per cent given by United States tax filers.

Social beings

- Social media is a novel platform for charities to spread the word and get noticed in a crowded market; the Movember fundraiser is a case in point. But a UBC-led study, The Nature of Slacktivism, found a Facebook "like" for a certain cause often translated to no donation at all. Giving via text message is also highly convenient, especially for disaster relief appeals. CharityIntelligence.ca and CharityFocus.ca offer quick, easy ways to research charities' financial reports, before using portals like CanadaHelps.org and Chimp.net to contribute.

Women slightly more generous

4%

Women were four per cent more likely to donate money to charities than men. The 15-to-34 age group was less likely to give than baby boomers.

Quoted

"There is far more financial pressure on young people these days than there was historically and in terms of time being squeezed for volunteering."

Prof. Peter Elson, director of the Institute for Nonprofit Studies at Calgary's Mount Royal University

It's one man's gig to give year-round

Spreading the joy. Thousands of toys — up to 75,000 — will be donated to children this holiday season

BOB MACKIN
For Metro in Vancouver

Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau executive director Chris Bayliss in the East Vancouver warehouse, among Okanagan apple bins used for sorting donations. BOB MACKIN/FOR METRO IN VANCOUVER

Tonka trucks, hockey sticks, Barbie dolls, soccer balls and remote controlled minidrones are stacked on shelves of a modest, three-storey Vancouver warehouse — the secret Santa central, if you will.

The Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau, founded in 1930, helps 1,000 families directly and more than 40,000 children and youth around the region get toys, books and clothes for Christmas.

"It means a lot to me," said Angela Woods as she left the bureau's headquarters with Christmas surprises for her son. "If they didn't have this every year, I wouldn't know what to do. They're awesome up there, they are amazing."

It's the season for giving, and a recent Ipsos Reid poll found that 87 per cent of poll respondents said they enjoy feeling good about giving to charity. Only 13 per cent got the "bah, humbugs" over the thought of giving to a charity during the holidays. That means charities like the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau go from silent to crazy in a very short period.

"The bureau quietly chugs along, collecting toys, disbursing them to other bureaus and shelters, then we open for this three weeks," said executive director Chris Bayliss. "It goes from a quiet, boring, ugly warehouse on the Eastside to often full of volunteers and people, full of fun for a month."

The Christmas Bureau collects toys at big events throughout fall, from the Greater Vancouver Motorcycle Toy Run to the Vancouver Giants' Teddy Bear Toss to the Pan Pacific Christmas Wish Breakfast, which attracted 15 tonnes of donations on Dec. 11.

"The regional role is changing, as Metro Vancouver grows further afield we get more and more working poor," Bayliss says. "I was brought up my whole life to believe this, we're all two paycheques away from being broke."

In 2001, the Christmas Bureau gave 17,000 donated toys to needy homes. This year, Bayliss estimates some 50,000 to 75,000 toys and books, plus about 5,000 clothes and coats, will put smiles on children's faces.

Bayliss and a part-timer are employed year-round. A dozen workers join for three to 10 weeks in the run-up to Christmas. He estimated volunteers worked 800 person hours on-site last December.

A good way to give

Transparency can aid charities

"Whether you're at the checkout counter, the Salvation Army kettles or when you get the mail, it's almost overwhelming how many 'asks' you get," said Charity Intelligence Canada managing director Kate Bahen.

Bahen's Toronto organization gauges transparency of non-profits and publishes reports on the finances of 500 charities on its website. Bahen said Canadians deserve proof that their donations are spent wisely and make a difference.

"To whom much is given, much is expected," she said.

Charities must "more effectively report what did you do with the money, how did you spend it, who did you work with, what was the social impact?" Bahen said. "How did you help Canada?"

Who

- Canadians who attend a place of worship weekly are more inclined to donate and make larger donations. That's why religious organizations benefitted from $4.26 billion in 2010 donations. The health sector ($1.59 billion) and social services ($1.16 billion) were next in popularity.
- Prof. Charles Weinberg, of the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business, said planned giving takes a backseat to impulse giving at this time of year. "It's the holiday season, you're in a good mood and what about, sadly, people that don't have enough food or kids that don't have toys?"

Total tax filers

24.8M

The number of tax filers in Canada, according to Statistics Canada: 24,841,630.

Dec. 31

- New Year's Eve is the deadline to donate for the 2013 tax year, but tax breaks were cited as the motivator by only 23 per cent in a 2012 Statistics Canada report on giving.
- Compassion for those in need (90 per cent), belief in a cause (86 per cent) and contributing to the community (80 per cent) were the top three reasons.

2019

- Canadian charities will be forced to adapt for future holiday seasons. By 2019, Canada Post will stop delivering mail door-to-door in urban areas.

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‘Ashley is at peace,’ mom says after jury homicide verdict in cell death

Inquest. Sweeping recommendations made to better equip prison system to deal with mentally ill

The videotaped choking death of a teenager in her segregation cell six years ago was a homicide, a jury decided on Thursday, sparking calls for police to reopen their criminal investigation into the tragedy.

The Ashley Smith inquest decision drew a gasp from a packed coroner’s courtroom, which also heard jurors make 104 recommendations on dealing with self-harming mentally ill women in federal prisons.

While the homicide decision is not a finding of legal liability, Smith’s family lawyer immediately called for police to get involved, and lashed out at Correctional Service Canada.

“It is high time that those in charge are held accountable,” Julian Falconer said.

Falconer called for the resignation of CSC commissioner Don Head, who had warned jurors against making recommendations that would be expensive to implement.

The emotionally disturbed Smith, 19, of Moncton, N.B., strangled herself in her cell at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener, Ont., on Oct. 19, 2007. Guards, under orders from senior management against intervening as long as she was still breathing, waited too long to enter the cell and save her. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

“What happened to Ashley should never have happened. The concoctions of her as being violent were false; they were concocted in a way to justify a punitive treatment of her.”

Kim Pate, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

Recommendations

The inquest heard evidence from 83 witnesses over 107 days about how poorly equipped the prison system was to deal with the mentally ill young woman.

- Among their recommendations, jurors urged that female inmates with serious mental-health issues or self-harming behaviours should serve time in a specialized treatment facility.

Ashley Smith’s family lawyers Julian Falconer, left, and Julian Roy address the media outside of the coroner’s court following the Ashley Smith inquest verdict in Toronto on Thursday. MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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More than 75 injured as ceiling of London theatre partially collapses

Packed house. An evening performance turned into a disaster as masonry came crashing down onto audience members

Plaster and dust rained down on a packed audience when the ceiling of a London, England, theatre partially collapsed Thursday night. More than 75 people were injured — seven seriously, authorities said.

The collapse at the Apollo Theatre took place around 8:15 p.m. during a performance of The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time.

Plaster and masonry from a section of the ceiling tumbled down, bringing parts of the theatre's balconies down with it onto the audience, police said.

More than 700 people were in the theatre at the time, according to the London Fire Brigade.

Officials said most of the injured were "walking wounded" with upper-body injuries, and that all are conscious and breathing.

Police and fire officials said it was too soon to say what had caused the partial collapse of the ceiling, but that a full investigation is being carried out.

Dee Kearney said she was just three or four seats from the stage when an actor shouted "watch out!"

"Then what we felt was debris falling on us, a loud bang, and then all of a sudden there was a coat of dust," she said.

"Complete chaos" erupted as the debris rained down, said Martin Bostock, who came with his family to see the show.

"At first, we thought it was part of the show," he told Sky News. "Then I got hit on the head." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman stands bandaged and wearing a blanket given by emergency services following an incident at the Apollo Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue in London, England, on Thursday during a performance at the height of the Christmas season, with police saying there were "a number" of casualties. JOEL RYAN, INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Treating the injured

- Theatregoers were treated by dozens of emergency workers in the street outside the Apollo and at a nearby theatre.
- London Ambulance Service said it had treated 76 patients, with 51 taken to hospitals. Seven people suffered "serious injuries" but there were no fatalities and none of the injuries are believed to be life-threatening.
- The fire department reported that all those trapped in the Apollo have been rescued.
- Shaftesbury Avenue, normally one of London's busiest streets, was completely shut down.

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Saint Mary's needs code of conduct: Panel

Frosh-chant fallout.
Report stresses importance of changing norms that gave rise to sex-assault-promoting behaviour at university

Wayne MacKay, head of a panel formed after a frosh-week chant that glorified sexual assault, released his report on Thursday.
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A panel launched in the aftermath of a frosh-week chant that glorified the sexual assault of young girls delivered a report Thursday calling on Saint Mary's University to develop a school-wide code of conduct.

The report makes 20 recommendations aimed at fostering a cultural change at the Halifax school to prevent sexual violence and encourage respectful behaviour.

It says the chant at Saint Mary's University, along with a similar one sung during an orientation week event at the University of British Columbia, highlighted broad societal challenges that need to be addressed rather than issues specific to youth culture.

"Hypersexualized songs, photos, movies and advertisements are omnipresent. Alcohol and drug problems abound — even among public figures that are supposed to be role models," says the 110-page report.

"The Internet and social media are forces for good but also have a much darker side like easy access to pornography, cyberbullying and the deterioration of people's capacity to form meaningful 'in-person' relationships."

Wayne MacKay, a law professor at Dalhousie University, was appointed to lead the panel that consulted with students, faculty members and alumni about ways to avoid similar incidents in the future.

MacKay said the code of conduct should establish clear standards of behavioural norms that would apply to all members of the university community and there should be consequences for people who breach it.

He said Saint Mary's University should also invest in education programs to teach students about healthy sexuality and the importance of consent.

The university set up the panel after a video surfaced on Instagram showing student leaders singing a chant about underage, non-consensual sex to about 400 new students at an event during orientation week in September.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Unhealthy allegations

Pamela Mattock Porter leaves court after her request to have her bail conditions changed so she can spend the winter in Florida were denied Thursday in Montreal. Porter is charged along with her husband, Arthur Porter, the former chief executive officer of the McGill University Health Centre of laundering $22.5 million that is alleged to have been paid in bribes by former SNC-Lavalin executives to secure the $1.3-billion super-hospital construction contract. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

China

Cartoon spurred violence: Court

State media say a Chinese court has ruled the producer of a hit kids cartoon is partly to blame for the injuries suffered by two children when their friend tied them to a tree and set them on fire in an imitation of a scene from the show. Xinhua News Agency says two young brothers were badly burned in April by the actions of their 10-year-old friend.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pennsylvania

Defrocked pastor plans to fight anti-gay doctrine

A United Methodist Church pastor defrocked for officiating the gay wedding of his son says he intends to appeal the church officials' decision. Frank Schaefer says he will continue to fight to eradicate discriminatory language in church doctrine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ethan
St. Catharines, ON

Sometimes, good things come in small packages. Ethan, a Pee-Wee hockey player from St. Catharines, ON, has been collecting used hockey equipment since 2009 and distributing it to underprivileged hockey players throughout Ontario and around the world.

George
Oliver, BC

Wherever help is needed in Oliver, BC, you'll find George. He spends his life spreading goodness in so many ways, but what's really special is the time and effort he devotes to growing fresh vegetables for others. Last year, he donated 1800lbs of veggies to the food bank.

Sharon
Brandon, MB

One person can fill an entire community with goodness. Sharon, from Brandon, MB, is in her retirement years, but she still works 5 days a week at her local soup kitchen. There by 6 a.m. every morning, she tirelessly cooks hot meals for 125-150 people from all walks of life.

Julia and Emma
Oakville, ON

Goodness runs in their family. Teen sisters Julia and Emma from Oakville, ON made it their mission to collect books for remote "fly-in" communities in Northern Ontario. Their charity Books With No Bounds has collected and distributed over 27,000 books.

Coby
North York, ON

This story proves that you can always make time to spread goodness. Coby leads a busy life in North York, ON, but he regularly visits a long-term home for the elderly. Through the joy of music and song, he, and a group of volunteers from The House, bring smiles and a little human tenderness to the aged.

Vote at searchforgoodness.ca

Voting period ends on January 03, 2014 at 11:59 AM ET. Limit of one vote per person per day. See www.facebook.com/shreddies for details.

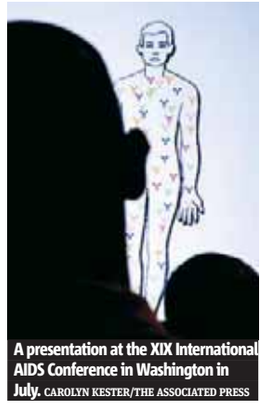
Epilepsy drug offers promise in AIDS fight

'Works beautifully' in human tissue.
Scientists believe it could prevent HIV from attacking the immune system

Can an experimental drug developed to treat epilepsy block the AIDS virus? A preliminary lab study suggests it's possible, and researchers are eager to try it in people.

Scientists experimented with the drug after uncovering details of how they believe HIV cripples the immune system to bring on AIDS.

When tested in human tissues in the laboratory, the drug "works beautifully" to prevent HIV from destroying key cells of the immune system, said Dr. Warner Greene of the Gladstone Institutes in San Francisco. Those results appear in a paper by Greene and others published Thursday on Nature.


A presentation at the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington in July. CAROLYN KESTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Researchers have long known HIV infects some vital CD4 cells in the immune system and turns them into virus-producing factories, killing them in the process.

The epilepsy drug, which is not on the market, blocks an enzyme that the research identified as playing a key role in that immune system attack.

Prior studies of the drug in people show it is safe, Greene said. So the researchers are talking to the drug company about testing it in people infected with HIV. No timeline for such studies has been set, he said.

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U.K. extremists found guilty of killing soldier

London. Lee Rigby was run down by a car and repeatedly stabbed by one killer while the other attempted to cut off his head

Two British-born, al-Qaida-inspired extremists who considered themselves "soldiers of Allah" were convicted Thursday of murdering an off-duty serviceman in a frenzied attack on a London street.

The jury deliberated for just 90 minutes before finding Michael Adebolajo, 29, and Michael Adebowale , 22, guilty of murdering 25-year-old Lee Rigby, a member of the Royal Fusiliers who had served in Afghanistan.

Lee Rigby, who was attacked and killed by two men in London.
MOD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The two men will be sentenced early next year.

Neither defendant reacted as the jury foreman announced the verdicts. Adebolajo smiled and kissed a copy of the Qur'an as he was led down to the cells.

Both had pleaded not guilty to murder, though neither denied taking part in the May 22 attack. Adebolajo told police, in an interview played in court, that they had decided to kill a British soldier, and Rigby had been targeted because he was "spotted first."

After the attack the two killers waited at the scene, and then charged at a police car waving a machete and a gun. They said they hoped to provoke police into shooting them. Officers shot the two men several times.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Italy. Hunt on for serial killer let out of jail on good-behaviour pass

Italian police on Thursday conducted a manhunt for a serial killer who was allowed to leave a Genoa prison on a two-day good-behaviour pass to see his elderly mother in Savona, on the Ligurian coast, but failed to return.

Bartolomeo Gagliano is armed and "dangerous," and might have driven across the nearby border into France, Genoa police said. Gagliano being granted a good-behaviour pass despite a record of escapes and violence sparked an outcry in Italy.

Authorities said while Gagliano was out on the two-day pass to visit his mother, he forced a bakery worker at gunpoint to start driving him away. He later ordered the driver out of the car and drove off himself.

A Genoa newspaper reported Gagliano had received two good behaviour passes earlier this year, and that both times Gagliano returned to prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gagliano's crimes

Courts held Bartolomeo Gagliano, now 55, responsible for the fatal stoning of one prostitute and the wounding of another in 1981, but ruled him mentally incapable of understanding the crime and ordered him to an asylum for the criminally insane, according to authorities.

- After escaping in 1989 from the asylum, he killed, along with another man, a female transsexual and a male transvestite, and was again sent to a criminal asylum for psychiatric treatment, authorities quoted in Italian news reports said.

Freed Gitmo detainee claims he was tortured

Mentally ill. Ibrahim Idris has spent much of his 11 years at Guantanamo in psychiatric treatment

One of two Sudanese Guantanamo detainees who arrived home Thursday after release from the U.S.-run facility in Cuba said his jailers had "systematically tortured" him, with punishment "doubled" for those who attempted hunger strikes.

Ibrahim Idris made his remarks in a news conference in Khartoum, hours after arriving in a U.S. military plane along with Noor Othman Mohammed.

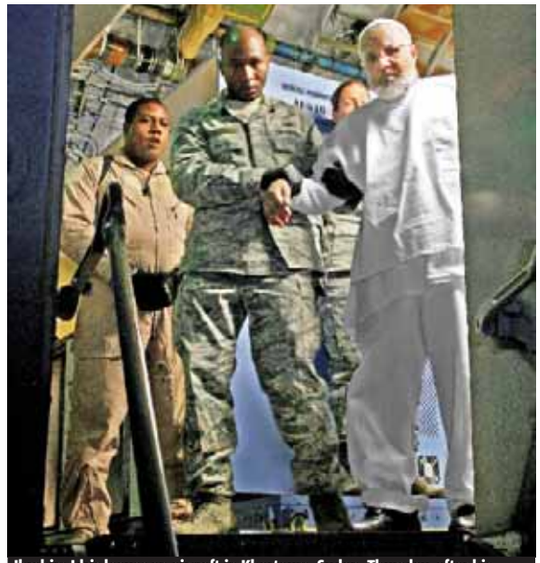
Mohammed pleaded guilty in February 2011 to terrorism offences in a plea deal that spared him the possibility of a life sentence. He was sentenced to 14 years, and all but 34 months were suspended.

Frail and speaking weakly, Idris said, "we have been subjected to meticulous, daily torture," adding that those who tried to hold a hunger strike were "double tortured … on an isolated island, surrounded by weapons."

Hunger strikes have been employed by men held at Guantanamo since shortly after the prison opened in January 2002. Human rights groups, lawyers and the media had long used the number of hunger strikers as a measure of discontent in the prison.

Of the 160 detainees still being held at Guantanamo Bay, only a handful of prisoners are currently facing charges, including five men accused of involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ibrahim Idris leaves an aircraft in Khartoum, Sudan, Thursday, after his release from Guantanamo Bay. ABD RAOUF/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dennis Rodman back in N. Korea for b-ball game

An unlikely friendship.
Ex-NBA star organizing exhibition game with other ex-NBAers for Kim Jong-un's birthday

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman
DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman arrived in North Korea on Thursday to meet leader Kim Jong-un and put the finishing touches on plans to bring 12 ex-NBA players to Pyongyang for a Jan. 8 exhibition game marking the leader's birthday.

Rodman said the game is on track despite the recent execution of Kim's uncle in a dramatic political purge.

Rodman's visit comes less than a week after North Korea announced the execution of Jang Song Thaek, an unprecedented fall from grace for one of the most powerful figures in the country. Jang's execution sparked speculation by foreign analysts over the future of the Kim regime.

But officials in Pyongyang say Jang's removal has not caused any instability. Rodman's visit, should it proceed uneventfully, could be a sign that Kim is firmly in charge.

Rodman and Kim have struck up an unlikely friendship since the Hall of Famer travelled to the secretive state for the first time in February with the Harlem Globetrotters for an HBO series produced by New York-based VICE television. He remains the highest-profile American to meet Kim since the leader inherited power from his father, Kim Jong-il, in 2011.

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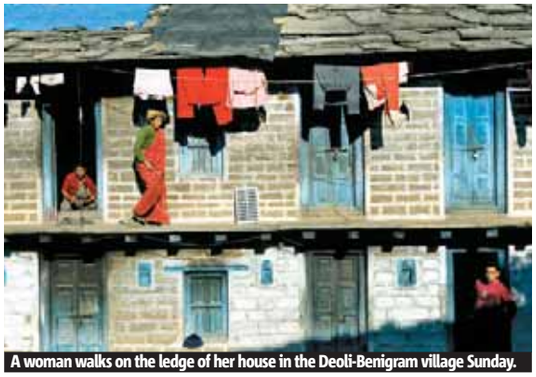
Shakuntala Devi, who lost two sons, wails in Deoli-Benigram.


A woman walks on the ledge of her house in the Deoli-Benigram village Sunday.

Bijaya Devi, 64, the oldest widow of the village, sits with her orphaned one-year-old grandson at her house in Deoli-Benigram Sunday.

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Government response

The Indian government has been criticized for its slow response to the floods. In all, about 1,000 bodies were found and some 5,700 people are missing.

- The government has distributed 500,000 rupees (about $8,000) to families in the area who lost a breadwinner, but the villagers say what they need are jobs, and for roads and electricity to be restored.

A woman returns after fetching firewood at the Deoli-Benigram village. The Indian but in this Himalayan hamlet known as the Village of Widows, the loss is all too specific:

India floods create Village of Widows

Children play in Deoli-Benigram village on Sunday.

Kiran, one of the youngest widows of the village.

'Now it is hell.'
Himalayan village of Deoli-Benigram has lost about a quarter of its population

The Indian government still doesn't have a final toll for the thousands of people killed in massive flash floods earlier this year, but in the Himalayan hamlet known as the Village of Widows, the loss is all too specific: 57 people killed, about a quarter of its population.

Six months after walls of melted glacier, mud and debris came crashing down the mountainside, the village officially named Deoli-Benigram has 37 widows from the floods, making up about a third of its remaining inhabitants and giving the town its grim new name.

Along with their loved ones, the grieving women's livelihoods were also lost, and they say the state's help is not enough.

"Just six months ago, we were the richest family in this village, and now we do not know where our next meal will come from," says Bijaya Devi, tears rolling down her face. Devi lost her husband, three of her sons and a nephew in the June 17 floods, which devastated the town of Kedarnath where most of the men in the village made their livings.

At age 64, Devi is the village's oldest widow. The youngest is her 22-year-old daughter-in-law. Both their husbands worked in the family's small lodge and grocery store in Kedarnath.

The early monsoon floods struck near the end of the summer Hindu pilgrimage to the Kedarnath shrine. Many of the surrounding people depend on temple tourism to make their livings, either as priests, innkeepers or guides.

The Kedarnath temple was not badly damaged itself but the area around it is still strewn with piles of debris, and villagers worry that next summer's pilgrims won't come to the devastated area.

But with the harsh Himalayan winter setting in, many are concerned just with surviving.

"Earlier, the life in the hills was dangerous, but now it is hell. There are no roads, no water, no electricity and no jobs," said Vinod Kumar in the village of Bhatwadi. "People in many villages are still living in makeshift tents. How can they survive in tents? How will they keep themselves warm?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

government still doesn't have a final death toll from massive flash floods this year, 57, about a quarter of its population. ALL PHOTOS RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Offer only available on finance terms, not cash or lease offers. ‡0-weekly finance payment O.A.C. for 2013 Sportage 2.4L LX MT FWD (SPS510) based on a selling price of $24,178 to $127 with an APR of 0% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Offer includes loan savings of $1,000. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,422 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ◄Cash purchase price for the new 2014 Forte Sedan LX MT (FOS41E)/2014 Rondo LX MT (RNS51R) is $13,913/$19,893 and includes a cash savings of $4,000 (which is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers, including the Don't Pay Until Spring offer). 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For full contest rules and no-purchase entry details, visit www.kia.ca. ‡Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2014 Forte SX (FO74BE)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX Navigation (SP750D)/2014 Rondo EX Luxury (RN756E) is $26,195/$28,145/$32,195. ^Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2014 Forte 1.8L MPI 4-cyl (MT)/2013 Sportage 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2014 Rondo 2.0L GDI 4-cyl (A/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation. Financing per OAC. 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People from normal childhoods with normal lives don't end up homeless. Dave disagrees.

{ Dave, in shelters for 12 years }

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The set of a microfilm near Beijing in October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Microfilms give voice to the people of China

Big impact.
The small films have 'become a democratic means for expression'

People in China watch them in the subway, on buses, even as they walk down a sidewalk: homegrown short films that are low-budget, intensely popular and accessible to anyone with a smartphone.

Microfilms, uploaded to Chinese YouTube-style and video-streaming sites, offer themes and subjects not shown in the country's strictly censored cinemas. And thanks to video-capturing smartphones and basic editing software available on laptops, anyone can be a director.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Showing taboo topics

The genre of microfilms, usually less than 40 minutes long, has exploded in China over the past few years, stretching the boundaries of what can be shown, including pieces on gender and homosexuality.

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Faux no to faux yes: Vegan leather, fake fur so hot right now

Faux is the new black. Pleasantly surprise the fashion plate on your gift list with something fake

Finding a knockoff version of the fur you want under the Christmas tree would ordinarily be a disappointment.

Not this year.

Faux is the new black this season for holiday gifts. But this isn't the "pleather" of the 1980s — that cheap, plastic-looking material made popular by Michael Jackson during his Thriller days.

A $198 fuzzy brown coat at Banana Republic has a prominently placed tag that reads "faux fur."

Dresses with "vegan leather" accents are flying off virtual shelves at shopbop.com. And at luxury retailer Barney's, a Marni faux leather three-quarter sleeve jacket sells for $1,900.

Faux is gaining popularity in part because there have been advances in technology enabling designers to make better-looking fakes. In a still-shaky economy that has made Americans more frugal, faux also can be seen as a good way to be trendy without breaking the bank. And a movement toward socially conscious shopping makes some people feel better about faux purchases.

Banana Republic's Fair Isle faux-fur neck warmer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It helps that some A-listers have given faux their seal of approval. Models have been seen on the runway wearing faux leather pieces in shows for big-name designers like Tom Ford and Rag & Bone. And actresses Anne Hathaway and Kate Hudson have strutted on the red carpet in faux leather and fur. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$6B proposal. Panel gives OK to Northern Gateway pipeline, with conditions

A review panel is recommending that the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline that would connect the Alberta oilsands to tankers on the B.C. coast go ahead.

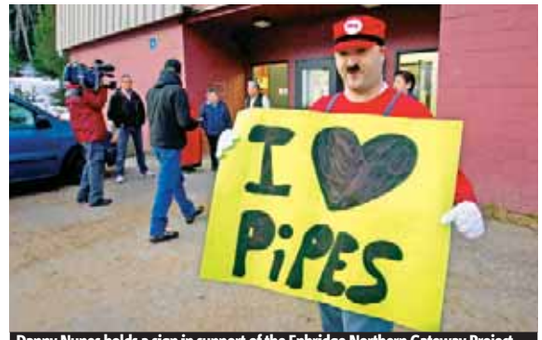
But the panel has attached 209 conditions to the project.

The final decision rests with the federal government, which has roughly six months to respond to the report.

The controversial $6-billion proposal has pitted Calgary-based Enbridge against environmental groups and several First Nations.

They have raised concerns about the possibility of an oilspill on land or off the coast of British Columbia.

Supporters say the line is critical if Alberta is to get its oil to emerging markets in Asia. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Danny Nunes holds a sign in support of the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project outside hearings for the project in Kitimaat Village, B.C., last year. THE CANDIAN PRESS

Take a bow, Canada

American happy we no longer get home mail delivery

The announced demise of home mail delivery in Canada has prompted a celebratory reaction from one U.S. lawmaker, Republican congressman Darrell Issa, who longs to see his own country adopt a similar reform to end residential postal service.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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THE METRO LIST

Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 Twitter vending machines. Telus created a Twitter-enabled vending machine at the Pacific Centre Shopping Mall in Vancouver that rewards tweeting consumers with toy pandas as part of a partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. They're on to something, I hope. In the future, I'll be able to tweet a vending machine using a hashtag such as #bbqdoritos, and out that bag will come.

2 Instagram messaging. The social media photo site has introduced Instagram Direct, allowing you to message your buds photos and videos. Hmmm, isn't Snapchat for private messaging someone a photo or video? (Well, true, those disappear). My wish is to someday be tweeting an Instagram photo via direct message on Snapchat using Facebook. That will simplify everything.

3 Beyoncé's social media blitz. Foregoing traditional media channels, Beyoncé released her latest album with a simple "Surprise!" to her more than eight million Instagram followers — and the full album appeared for sale on iTunes. It hit a record for albums sold on the site. Goes to show (again) that sometimes the best marketing is no marketing. Of course, it helps if you're a pop culture icon.

4 Arlene Dickinson. One of my fave stars of Dragons' Den has a new book out, All In, about balancing your personal and professional life when you're a entrepreneur. I fancy myself an entrepreneur, so I'll be reading it this Christmas morning when I receive it as a stocking stuffer from my wife. If she reads this.

5 Stuff on Scout's Head. Photos of pets on the Internet — particularly cats and dogs — do really, *really* well. The most famous is Grumpy Cat, discovered on news site Reddit. An up-and-coming contender perhaps is the Canadian version: Stuff on Scout's Head, which features a pit bull with stuff that his owner puts on his head — everything from a toque to a pie to a skateboard. I cannot explain the Internet.

6 Peterborough Turkey. A picture of a turkey standing in a transit shelter next to a Canada Post box in Peterborough, Ont., went viral this week. The turkey had been stopping traffic recently on a major road. At least it's learning to take the bus now. So why else did this turkey pic catch on? "Turkeys — they are like kittens with beaks," one person tweeted.

7 Survivor Brand. Tyson Apostol won the 27th edition of the TV show Survivor in a rather lacklustre season that ended with the lowest rating for a Survivor finale ever. With the iconic reality show slumping in ratings in recent years, it may be time to reinvent the brand. Add more villains. Or have only villains. The world loves watching villains on TV. Or just let all competitors use social media.

8 Carl McCoid. This guy from Yorkshire, England, keeps getting tattoos of Miley Cyrus. He now has 22 different ones of her. This guy is a human wrecking ball with Miley Cyrus all over him.

9 Sorry, we're great. A CNN post titled 10 Things Canada Does Better Than Anywhere Else got a lot of attention this week with its list that included apologizing, lake and cottage country, stand-in movie locations, humour and more. Sorry, but the only thing they missed is beer. We make (and drink) better beer than anyone, eh?

10 Scarlett Johansson and cheese. Under the headline: Scarlett Johansson Has Weird Feelings About Cheese, on NY Magazine, the actress was quoted as saying: "I don't eat it, but I love it ... I like to smell cheese, I like to watch people enjoying it and I like to encourage people to eat cheeses I know taste really good. But I don't eat it any more because my body just does better without it." Life doesn't get weirder or cheesier than that.

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ZOOM

Photo shoot goes swimmingly

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Museum has a few bones to pick

For most people, fish bones may be just an annoyance at dinnertime.

But a new exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Nature, in Ottawa, could give viewers a broader perspective.

X-rays of Arctic Fishes, opening Jan. 11, features images that show "the spectacular osteological architecture of fishes," such as this X-ray of a boa dragonfish (pictured), says museum ichthyologist (fish scientist) Noel Alfonso.

Fish are considered to have the most complex bone structures of all vertebrates. That makes osteology — the study of bones — more challenging with fish than with other animals possessing a spinal column.

As revealed in X-rays, the number of vertebrae can be used to differentiate one fish species from another, Alfonso said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skin, bone and dinner

- An X-ray of a 14-centimetre-long boa dragonfish (not pictured), reveals a fish in its stomach. That makes this specimen a rare find, since "these things can often go for months without feeding," said Alfonso.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

CONTRIBUTED

If the dark mornings, cold evenings and slushy all-the-times have you taking your fitness routine inside, don't sweat it. Or rather do (but without the monotony of the exercise machine). From the makers of Guitar Hero, Goji Play is the latest 'gamercising' gimmick helping gamers get to the gym. Using two wireless controllers and a clip-on sensor, gym-goers can turn their treadmill into a gaming console while blasting away Christmas calories. As you ramp up the speed on the stepper, watch as your character gains power and speed — while keeping track of your sweaty stats (kilometres, calories, etc.). Here's a couple of games to get you started.

Fisticuffs:
Get in the ring with fighters including a drunken sailor, angry Viking and top-hat wearing bar keeper.

Shine Runner:
Cruise around the bayou in a fan boat picking up moonshine, snake oil and crawdads as ammo to keep you in the game.

Super Moto X:
Race through a city of the future while jumping over obstacles, avoiding slow zones and steering clear of the 5-0.

Comments

RE: 'Outdated' Nova Scotia Law Requires All Men To Shovel Highway Snow, published online Dec. 18

Pssh. Subsection A: All physically fit female persons between the ages of 16 and 60 are required to make hot chocolate with marshmallows on the highways during winter for the male persons who work with their shovels on the highways during winter. **Aeric posted to metronews.ca**

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Heartland Town Centre
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2899 Steeles Ave West
The Queensway

Oakville
Oakville Place
250 Wyecroft Rd
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2150 Winston Park Dr
2501 3 Line

Oshawa
Oshawa Centre
Taunton Harmony Plaza
381 Taunton Rd E

Pickering
Pickering Town Centre
1755 Pickering Pkwy

Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Mall
11005 Yonge St
155 East Beaver Creek Rd

Scarborough
Scarborough Town Centre
Warden/Eglinton Power Centre
1184 Kennedy Rd
2281 Kingston Rd

Stouffville
Stouffville Walmart Centre

Thornhill
Promenade
7040 Yonge St
7378 Yonge St

Toronto
Bayview Village Shopping Centre
Beaches
Bloor West Village
Dufferin Mall
Fairview Mall
Gerrard Square
Shops at Don Mills
Stock Exchange Building
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Synopsis

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues opened this week bringing confident but thick news anchor Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell) back to the big screen after a nine year absence. The first film made catchphrases like, "I love scotch. Scotchy, scotch, scotch," and the names Brick Tamland (Steve Carell), Brian Fantana (Paul Rudd) and Champion "Champ" Kind (David Koechner) household words. In celebration of the return of the team from San Diego's KVWN Channel 4 the Reel Guys have a look back at the career of funnyman Will Ferrell.

Will Ferrell reprises his role as blustering anchorman Ron Burgundy in Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues. CONTRIBUTED

Where there's a Will, there's a way to laugh

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Funnyman Ferrell. In honour of the return of Ron Burgundy, the Reel Guys review their favourite Ferrell flicks

Richard: Mark, I think Will Ferrell is one of the bravest comedic actors working today; someone willing to do anything for a laugh. Trouble is, I often don't laugh. Anchorman is laugh-out-loud funny. Ditto Elf and Old School, but sometimes I feel he has to rein the manic energy in, do half as much and maybe be twice as funny. Having said that, the Shark Week jokes in Step Brothers really make me giggle.

Mark: Richard, I share your ambivalence toward Ferrell. He's not my go-to guy for funny. Still, he's done some great work. My favourite Will Ferrell movies are two indie films he's starred in: Stranger Than Fiction and Everything Must Go. They're the equivalent of Jim Carrey's work in The Truman Show and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. Maybe not huge crowd pleasers, but they show the true breadth of his talent.

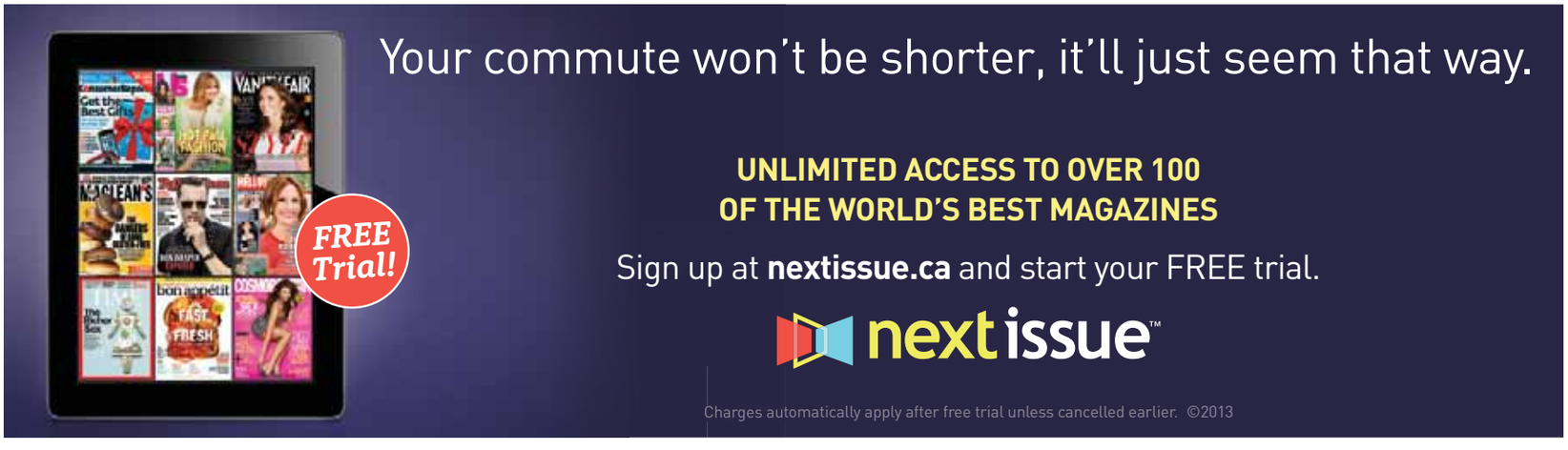
RC: I agree. I think Stranger Than Fiction is worth a rental. It's touching and funny, which for me is Ferrell's sweet spot. A Night at the Roxbury is a silly comedy but Ferrell's wide-eyed performance is the kind of thing I like from him. Outrageous, yes, but underneath the silly is a real guy. Sometimes I can't see the real guy underneath his characters and those are his movies that don't work for me. Except Zoolander. As fashion guru Mugatu he's so strange he dares you not to laugh at him.

MB: Yes, he's sometimes better in a supporting role in which his over-the-top zaniness doesn't sink the whole picture. Mugatu for sure, but also the mattress salesman in The Internship or Franz in The Producers. But generally, I find his man-child jock character wearying. Which is why, I think, Anchorman is such a successful movie. It's a Will Ferrell movie for people who don't care for Will Ferrell movies. Did you enjoy the sequel, Richard?

RC: I did. I think there is a lot of life left in Ron Burgundy. It's funny in an outrageous way. It's a bit too long, (and don't bother sitting through to the post credit scene unless you find the sight of Steve Carell eating cookies hilarious) but the buffoonery level is high in a season where serious drama seems to be the ticket.

In the last couple of weeks I have seen Ferrell, in character, sit in on some local newscasts and he fit right in. As long as there is media, egomaniac announcers and local news, there will be a place for Ron Burgundy.

MB: Yes, but let's not forget he's supported by a stellar cast of comic actors: Paul Rudd, Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Wiig. Even if Ferrell isn't your cup of tea, it's hard to believe this movie won't work.



Animation/Family

Walking with Dinosaurs 3D

Directors. Barry Cook, Neil Nightingale

Stars. Charlie Rowe, Karl Urban

●●○○○

This is a really odd movie. It looks like a high-end educational documentary you'd see on the History Channel, but anyone with more than a Grade 2 reading level will find the story slow and clichéd. The computer animated story of a herd of migrating dinosaurs and the dangers they face is beautiful looking but dragged down by terrible voice work. Imagine Jurassic Park without Jeff Goldblum or the fun and you get the idea.

RICHARD CROUSE

Horror/Mystery

Haunter

Director. Vincenzo Natali

Stars. Abigail Breslin, Michelle Nolden

●●●●○

Abigail Breslin (Little Miss Sunshine) toplines this solid Canadian chiller, a dark mood piece about a teenage girl who comes to realize that she and her kin are in fact dead while she tries to make contact with the living family occupying her home. Breslin is a solid Can-Con horror hero Vincenzo Natali (Splice) directs with artful elegance and Kubrickian detachment and Stephen McHattie (Pontypool) steals scenes as only he can. The film isn't particularly scary, however it oozes atmosphere.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Crime/Drama

American Hustle

Director. David O. Russell

Stars. Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper

●●●●○

American Hustle sees con artists Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale) and Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams) threatened with arrest unless they cooperate with ambitious FBI agent Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper). They help him run a complicated corruption investigation involving New Jersey mayor Carmen Polito (Jeremy Renner) but the sting gets out of control when the Mafia gets involved. Of the great ensemble cast Jennifer Lawrence really stands out in an entertainingly audacious movie.

RICHARD CROUSE

Documentary

Nicky's Family

Director. Matej Minac

●●●●○

In 1938, after a visit to Czechoslovakia, Sir Nicholas Winton returned home to England and began a furious campaign to rescue children whose lives were at risk under Hitler's rule. Winton managed to save 669 children from near certain death and placed them with foster families in England — and then didn't tell a soul about his efforts for the next 50 years. Winton's story is of course worthy of telling, but what makes this film truly compelling are the interviews with those he saved and Winton's own realization of the magnitude of his actions.

REGAN REID

Biography/Drama

Good Vibrations

Directors. Lisa Barros D'Sa, Glenn Leyburn

Stars. Richard Dormer, Jodie Whittaker

●●●○○

It's never been known as a musical hotbed, but for a few brief years Belfast reigned as one of the U.K.'s most potent punk scenes, producing at least one certifiable classic — the Undertones' Teenage Kicks — in the process. Good Vibrations follows non-partisan Terri Hooley, the record shop owner who made it all possible in the midst of Northern Ireland's troubles. The film follows your standard biopic narrative but captures the manic energy of a city at war with itself. **IAN GORMELY**

Drama/Comedy

Her

Director. Spike Jonze

Stars. Joaquin Phoenix

●●●●○

Writer/director Spike Jonze's latest oddball offering is an emotionally sophisticated, Sci-Fi tinted love story hiding in an absurdist fantasy skin. In it, Joaquin Phoenix plays a professional letter writer who falls madly in love with his sentient, sensual operating system (voiced gloriously by Scarlett Johansson) with surprising, surreal results. Her is like a mad amalgam of Ray Bradbury's I Sing The Body Electric smashed up against Demon Seed anchored by sly satire and an unforgettable, career best turn by Phoenix.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Holiday Service Information

Holiday Subway/RT Service Schedule

Tuesday, December 24: Reduced afternoon service.

Wednesday, December 25: Most routes start at 9:00 a.m. including Subway/RT.

Thursday, December 26: Most routes start at 6:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 31: Reduced afternoon service. Most routes with late evening service extended until 4:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve last subway/RT times:

- 3:30 a.m. north from Union Station
- 3:37 a.m. east or west from Bloor-Yonge Station
- 3:58 a.m. east from Sheppard-Yonge Station
- 4:07 a.m. RT east from Kennedy Station

Wednesday, January 1: Subway/RT starts at 9:00 a.m.

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Comedy/Drama

Inside Llewyn Davis

Directors. Joel & Ethan Coen

Stars. Oscar Isaac, Carey Mulligan

Inside Llewyn Davis is certainly not a film for everyone. Meandering, melancholic and moody, it's the type of intricate comedic drama that's not only established the Coen Brothers as cinema icons but equally tempered the pair's box office draw. In this tale of a folk singer flirting with self-destruction, The Coens construct the texture of 1960's New York. Alongside some accomplished musical sequences, the film makes a fascinating and heartbreaking character study.

STEVE GOW

Leo's just a sheep in big bad wolf clothes

Wolf of Wall Street. As a boy DiCaprio dreamed of working with Scorsese, and now they're co-conspirators

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Leonardo DiCaprio always wanted to be a Martin Scorsese actor. "I remember my father taking me to see one of his movies," the actor recalls. "He said, 'If you have the opportunity and a green light in this industry, there's one person you should work with.'"

It was the director of Mean Streets, Goodfellas, Raging Bull, After Hours.

And when DiCaprio became the biggest actor in the world, it wasn't too long before he was headlining Scorsese's Gangs of New York.

Their fifth film together — including The Departed and Shutter Island — was DiCaprio's idea. He read The Wolf of Wall Street, a tell-all memoir by unfathomably hedonistic broker Jordan Belfort, and felt it would fit Scorsese's sensibilities, in addition to being sobering commentary.

"I thought [his book] was a reflection of everything that was wrong with today's society," he says, chuckling.

"Jordan gave into every carnal indulgence possible."

The film, written by Boardwalk Empire scribe Terence Winter, chronicles the many hedonistic exploits of Belfort, who rises from a nobody selling penny stocks by the thousands to schnooks to dominating the Financial District.

"He represents something within our very nature, something that is very wrong. You can point to those attributes to everything's going on in our world today," DiCaprio says. But he adds,

"He's not the problem. I quickly realized these weren't the fat cats that were destroying our economy. They were the street urchins. They were part of the underworld trying to create a little island and emulating Gordon Gekko," he explains, referencing Michael Douglas' slick-haired Wall Street villain (and, to some, an idol).

"They were trying to be the guys that were robbing our country of billions and billions of dollars."

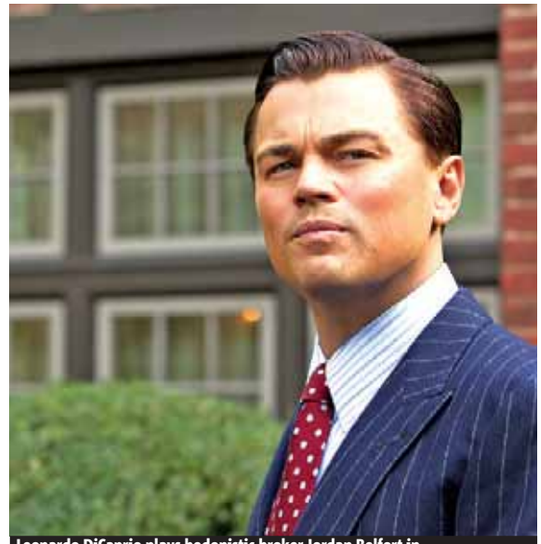
DiCaprio spent time with Belfort, who he describes as reformed.

"He looks at this [period] as an isolated period in his life. He's been paying the price ever since, trying to pay his debt to everyone he ripped off."

Belfort even told him how to play high on 'ludes, for a lengthy sequence where he and the fellow broker played by Jonah Hill take too many drugs and find their bodies won't work. "He told me what quaaludes were like," he recalls. "I had him rolling around on the floor for me."

He also says he watched, on a loop, a YouTube clip called The World's Drunkest Man, in which someone tries to get a beer but his body won't let him.

As for reuniting again with Scorsese, he's predictably gushy, talking about a mantra he gave him: "As long as you portray these people for what they are, and you don't try to sugarcoat them or apologize for their actions or depict them in any way apart from what they are, audiences will go along with you."



Leonardo DiCaprio plays hedonistic broker Jordan Belfort in Wolf of Wall Street, opening Dec. 25. CONTRIBUTED

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 20 TO THURS., DEC. 26 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Bloor Hot Docs Cinema
506 Bloor St.

20 Feet From Stardom (PG) Thu 12:30
2013 Cannes Lions Awards: The World's Best Commercials (STC) Wed 6:15 Thu 3
Blood Brother (PG) Fri 8:45 Sat 3:45 Sun 8:30
A Christmas Story (STC) Mon 4
Die Hard (14A) Mon 9
Home Alone (PG) Mon 6:30
Jingle Bell Rocks (PG) Sat 8:45
Maidentrip (G) Fri 4:15-6:30 Sat 6:15 Sun 1-6 Wed 4 Thu 6
Muscle Shoals (PG) Wed 9
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
The Prime Ministers: The Pioneers (STC) Sat 1 Sun 3:15
Rafea: Solar Mama (STC) Thu 8:30
White Christmas (PG) Mon 1

Carlton, 20 Carlton St.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Tue 1:15-4-6:45 Wed 4-6:45 Thu 1:15-4-6:45
47 Ronin (PG) Wed 3:55-6:40-9:20 Thu 1:15-3:55-6:40-9:20
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:25-4-6:40-9:20 No Passes Tue 1:25-4-6:40 No Passes Wed 4-6:40-9:20 No Passes Thu 1:25-4-6:40-9:20
Antisocial (STC) Fri-Mon 4:10-9:30 Tue 4:10 Wed-Thu 4:10-9:30
Blue Is the Warmest Color (R) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:50-8:30
Captain Phillips (14A) Fri-Tue 1:15-6:30
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 1:30-4:05-6:50-9:35 Sat 1:30-4:05-9:35 Sun-Mon 1:30-4:05-6:50-9:35 Tue 1:30-4:05-6:50 Wed 4:05-6:50-9:35 Thu 1:30-4:05-6:50-9:35
Gravity (PG) Fri-Mon 4:15-7-9:15 Tue 4:15-7 Wed-Thu 4:15-7-9:15
Grudge Match (14A) Wed 4:10-6:45-9:20 Thu 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:20
Haunter (PG) Fri-Tue 1:45 Thu 1:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:10-2-4:40-5:30-8-9 No Passes Tue 1:10-2-4:40-5:30 No Passes Wed 4:40-5:30-8-9 No Passes Thu 1:10-2-4:40-5:30-8-9
Love Actually (14A) Sat 7
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Mon 9:30 Wed-Thu 9:30
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Wed 3:50-6:40-9:10 Thu 1:20-3:50-6:40-9:10
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Mon 1:20-3:55-6:45-9:25 Tue 1:20-3:55-6:45

Scotiabank Theatre
259 Richmond St.

47 Ronin (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:15-2:15
47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 10:55-1:45-4:40-5:10-7:40-8:05-10:45-11:10
Don Jon (18A) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:10-5:25-8-10:10
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:05-1-2-3:50-4:55-7-7:50-9:50-10:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-1:30-4:40-5:10-8:20-8:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-5:35-9:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:55-12:35-3:35-4:20-7:15-8:35-11 No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-2-2:30-4:10-5:40-6:10-7:50-9:20-9:50
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:25-2:55-6:20-10
Homefront (14A) Fri-Tue 12:15-3:20-6-8:35-11
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Tue 11:40-12:40-1:45-2:50-4-5:50-6:20-7:20-9:05-9:35-10:40 Wed-Thu 12:05-12:50-3:20-4:10-6:50-7:30-10:15-10:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Tue 11:30-2:15-5-8:10-11
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Tue 1:15 Wed-Thu 11:40-2:30
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 4:25-7:35-10:30 Wed-Thu 5:20-8:20-11:10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-1:15-4:30-5:45-8:50-9:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 10:50-2:40-6:40-10:40

Market Square
80 Front St.

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:55-6:50-9:35 Tue 12:50-3:55-6:50 Wed 3:35-6:50-9:35 Thu 12:50-3:35-6:50-9:35
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1-3:40-6:55-9:25 No Passes Tue 1-3:40-6:55 No Passes Wed 3:40-6:55-9:25 No Passes Thu 1-3:40-6:55-9:25
Frozen (G) Fri-Mon 12:30-2:50-5:05-7:15-9:30 Tue 12:30-2:50-5:05-7:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:35-1:05-3:50-4:30-7:10-8:30 No Passes Sun-Mon 12:35-3:50-4:30-7:10 No Passes Tue 12:35-1:05-3:50-4:30 No Passes Wed 3:50-7:10 No Passes Thu 12:35-3:50-7:10 Sun-Mon 1:05-8:30
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Fri-Mon 12:40-3:35-6:35-9:35 Tue 12:40-3:35-6:35 Wed 3:35-6:35-9:35 Thu 12:40-3:35-6:35-9:35
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Thu 1:05-3:50-6:40-9:15
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Wed 4:30-8:15 Thu 12:45-4:30-8:15

Revue Cinema
400 Roncesvalles Ave.

About Time (14A) Fri 4-7 Sat 7 Sun 4-7
Captain Phillips (14A) Thu 9
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 3D (G) Thu 2
The Counselor (14A) Sat 9:30 Mon 9:15
Ender's Game (PG) Fri 1:30 Sat 4
Gravity 3D (PG) Thu 4-7
It's a Wonderful Life (G) Sun 1:30
The Miracle on 34th Street (STC) Sat 2
Muscle Shoals (PG) Fri 9:30 Sun 9:30 Mon 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue-Wed

The Royal
608 College St.

A Christmas Tale (14A) Sat-Sun 7
Elf (G) Sun 9
Everything is Terrible Holiday Special 2012 (STC) Sat 9
Gremlins (PG) Fri 9 Sun 2
Lethal Weapon (STC) Fri 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Thu
The Polar Express (G) Sat 2
Silent Night, Deadly Night (STC) Fri 11:30

Varsity
55 Bloor St. W.

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Tue 12:25-3:45-7-10:25 Wed-Thu 12:25-3:45-7:05-10:25 Fri-Tue 12:15-3:30-6:45-9:55 Wed-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:35-9:35
Her (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:20-10:30 Fri-Tue 1-4:05-7:05-10 Wed-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-10:05
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Tue 12-3:15-6:30-9:50
Inside Llewyn Davis (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-2-4-4:45-6:50-7:30-9:40-10:15 Fri-Tue 12:50-3:40-6:15-9:10 Wed-Thu 12:05-3:35-6:25-9:55
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Wed-Thu 12-3:25-6:55-10:20
Nebraska (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:35-6:35-9:30
Philomena (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:55-4:20-7:15-10:30 No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-3:25-6:25-9:20
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-2:50-6:40-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:55-2:35-6:15-8:50

Canada Square
2200 Yonge St.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri 3:55-6:45-9:35 Sat-Mon 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:35 Tue 1:05-3:55-6:45
All Is Lost (PG) Fri 3:45-6:20-8:40 Sat-Mon 1:30-3:50-6:20-8:50 Tue 1:30-3:50-6:20
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 3:30-6:15-9:10 Sat-Mon 12:45-3:30-6:15-9:10 Tue 12:45-3:30-6:15 Wed 3:30-6:20-9:10 Thu 12:45-3:30-6:20-9:10
Captain Phillips (14A) Fri 3:40-6:30-9:20 Sat-Mon 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:20 Tue 12:50-3:40-6:30
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Wed 4:20-7:10-9:40 Thu 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:40
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 4:30-7:10-9:40 Sat-Mon 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:40 Tue 1:40-4:30-7:10
Gravity (PG) Fri 4:50-7:20-9:25 Sat-Mon 1-3:05-5:10-7:20-9:25 Tue 1-3:05-5:10-7:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Wed 3:30-6:40-9:40 Thu 2-5:10-8:20
Justin Bieber's Believe (PG) Wed 4:40-7:15-9:30 Thu 2:10-4:40-7:15-9:35
Nebraska (PG) Wed 3:50-6:30-9 Thu 1:10-3:50-6:30-9
Philomena (PG) Wed 4:30-7-9:20 Thu 1:30-4:30-7-9:20
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri 4:10-7-9:40 No Passes Sat-Mon 1:20-4:10-7-9:40 No Passes Tue 1:20-4:10-7 No Passes Wed 4-6:50-9:35 No Passes Thu 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:30
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Sat-Tue 1:50 Wed 3:50 Thu 1:50
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 4-6:10-8:20 Tue 4-6:10 Wed 6:10-8:30 Thu 4-6:10-8:30

Mt. Pleasant Theatre
675 Mt.Pleasant Rd.

Blue Jasmine (14A) Fri-Sat 9:30 Sun-Mon 7 Thu 4:30
Lee Daniels' The Butler (14A) Fri-Sat 6:45 Sun 4:10 Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue-Wed

Regent Theatre
551 Mt.Pleasant Rd.

Muscle Shoals (PG) Fri 9:05 Sat 7 Sun 4:30 Thu 4:30
Night Train to Lisbon (14A) Fri 7 Sat 4:30 Sun 7 Thu 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Wed

Yonge-Eglinton Centre
2300 Yonge St.

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 1:10-4:10-7:25-10:25 No Passes Thu 11:10-2:10-5:05-8-10:55
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:40-7-10:20 Sun 12:20-3:40-7-10:15 Mon 12:20-3:40-7-10:20 Tue 12:20-3:40-7:10 Wed 12:25-3:40-6:55-10:10 Thu 12:10-3:20-6:50-10:05
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:50 No Passes Tue 1:50-4:50-7:50 No Passes Wed 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:40 No Passes Thu 11:05-2-4:55-7:50-10:45
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:10-7:25-10:30 Sun 4:10-7:30-10:25 Mon 1:10-4:10-7:25-10:30 Tue 1:10-4:10-7:30
Frozen (G) Fri-Sat 12:10 Sun 12 Mon-Wed 12:10 Thu 11:45
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Sun 2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Mon 2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Tue 2:50-5:30-8:10 Wed 2:55-5:40-8:20 Thu 2:30-5:30-8:20
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed 1-3:50-6:45-9:50 No Passes Thu 11-1:45-4:35-7:30-10:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:40-5:20-9:10 No Passes Tue 1:40-5:20 No Passes Wed 1:40-5:20-9:10 No Passes Thu 11:20-2:55-6:30-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 2:40-6:20-10:05 No Passes Tue 2:40-6:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Fri-Sat 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Sun 11:50-3:20-7-10:40 No Passes Mon 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Tue 12-3:30-7:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sat 12-3:20-6:45-10:15 Sun 12:40-4-7:20-10:40 Mon 12-3:20-6:45-10:15 Tue 12-3:20-7 Wed-Thu 11
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3-5:40-8:05-10:35 Sun 12:30-3-5:40-8:05-10:30 Mon 12:30-3-5:40-8:05-10:35 Tue 12:30-3-5:40-8:05
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-11 No Passes Thu 11:30-2:20-5:15-8:10-11
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 12:45-4:45-8:45 No Passes Thu 10:55-2:45-6:40-10:35

Yonge & Dundas 24
10 Dundas St East

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:40-6:40-9:55
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:30-4:30-6:45-7:45-10:15-11
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri 12:30-3:25-4:15-6:30-7:15-9:15-10:10 No Passes Sat-Thu 12:30-1:15-3:25-4:15-6:30-7:15-9:15-10:10 No Passes Fri 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 No Passes Sat-Thu 2-5-8-11
Captain Phillips (14A) Fri-Tue 4:40-10:40
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:10-9:30
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-8:05
Dhoom 3 (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4:55-9
Dhoom: 3 The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 1:40-6-10 Sat-Tue 2-6-10 Wed-Thu 2:30-6:15-10:15
Friend 2: The Legacy (14A) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:25-7:30-10:25
Frozen (G) Fri-Thu 12
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:35-5:05-7:40-10:20
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:05-6:20-8:35-10:50
Holiday Inn (STC) Sat 5:20 Sun-Mon 7 Tue 1:45-7 Wed 1:45-9:30
Home Alone (PG) Fri 1:45-7:10 Sat 7:30-9:50 Sun 9:45 Mon 1:45-4:15-9:30 Tue 4:15-9:30 Wed 4:15-7 Thu 1:45-7-9:30
Justin Bieber's Believe (PG) Wed-Thu 12:40-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Wed-Thu 12:05-3:35-7-10:25
Personal Tailor (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-7:05-10:05
Philomena (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Fri 4:15-9:45 Sat 2:30 Sun 12:55-4 Thu 4:15
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri 12:45-4:30-7:25-10:30 No Passes Sat-Thu 12:45-4:20-7:25-10:30
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:50-1:55-3:50-4:55-6:55-7:55-9:50-10:55
Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (14A) Fri-Tue 12:05-2:55-5:35-8:15-10:55 Wed-Thu 10:35
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 2:45-5:20-7:50-10:35 Wed-Thu 2:45-5:20-7:50

TIFF Bell Lightbox
350 King St. West

Blue Is the Warmest Color (R) Fri-Sat 12-8:30 Sun 8:30 Mon-Tue 12-8:30 Wed 8:30 Thu 8:45
The Cat Returns (PG) Sun 6 Mon 4
A Christmas Carol (PG) Sat 2
The Crash Reel (PG) Fri 12:10-3:35-7:10-9:40 Sat 12:10-7:20 Sun 12:10-3:05-7:10-9:40 Mon-Tue 12:10-3:35-7:10-9:40 Wed-Thu 2:15-9:40

TIFF Bell Lightbox
350 King St. West

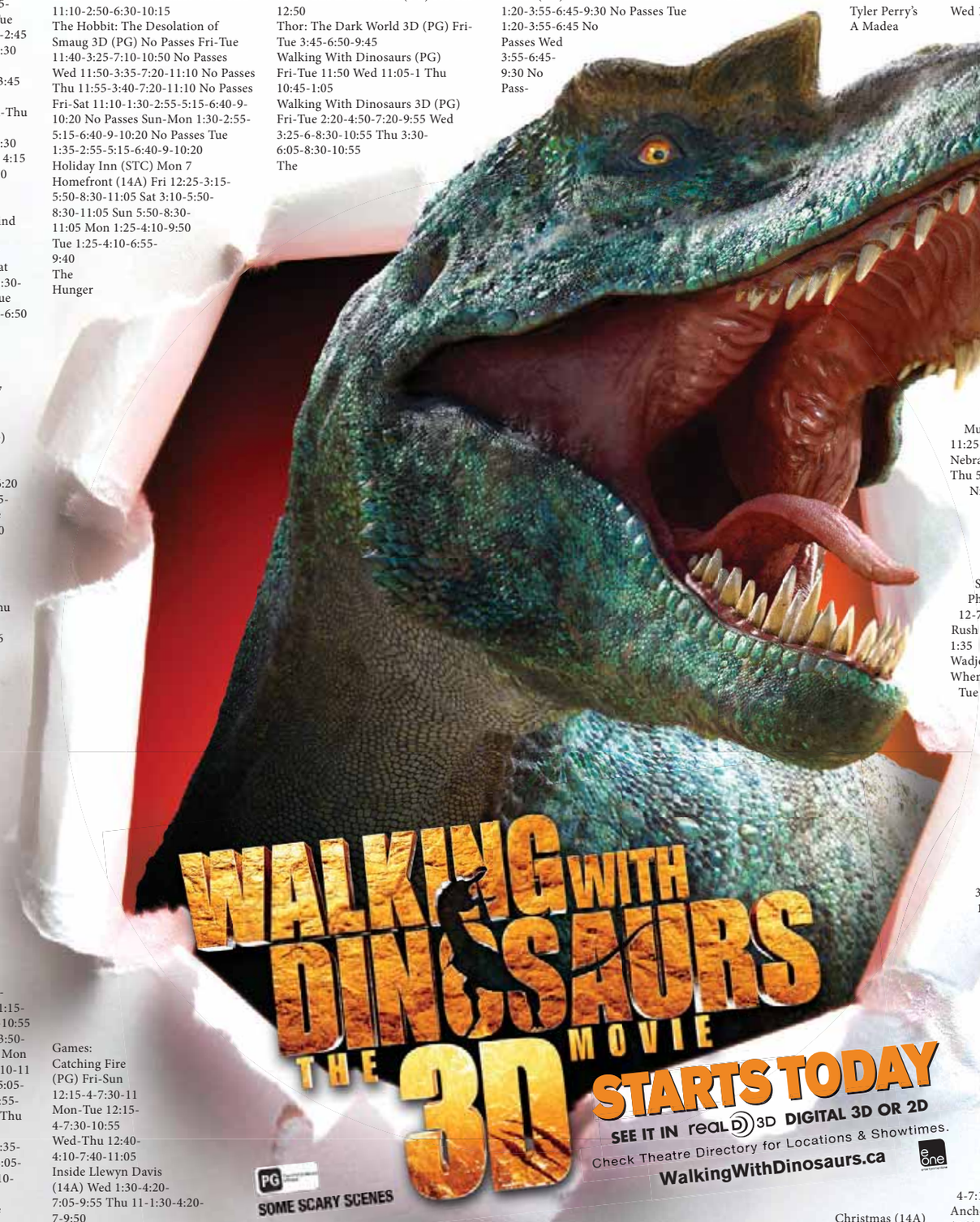
From Up on Poppy Hill (PG) Wed 6:45
Good Vibrations (14A) Fri 12:15-2:45-7:15 Sun 12:15-2:45-7:15 Tue 12:15-2:45-7:15 Wed-Thu 12:15-2:45
Grave of the Fireflies (PG) Fri 6:30 Mon 9
Howl's Moving Castle (PG) Fri 3:45 Tue 4
Inside Llewyn Davis (14A) Wed-Thu 12-2:30-5-6:30-7:30-9:05-10
It's a Wonderful Life (G) Sun 12:30
Kiki's Delivery Service (G) Wed 4:15
My Neighbor Totoro (G) Sat 4:30 Sun 12:45 Wed 2
Naked Lunch (R) Mon 8:45
Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind (PG) Fri 1
The Pervert's Guide to Ideology (PG) Fri 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat 2:25-5:40-6:45-9:30 Sun 12:25-3:30-6:35-9:30 Mon 2:20-5:20-9:35 Tue 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:25 Wed 12:30-6:50 Thu 12:30-6:45
Pom Poko (G) Tue 1
Pom Poko (G) Sun 8:15
Porco Rosso (G) Sun 3:30
Princess Mononoke (14A) Tue 7 Thu 1
Scanners (R) Sun 5:45
The Secret World of Arrietty (G) Thu 4
Shivers (18A) Wed 9
Spinning Plates (G) Fri 2:35-5-6:20 Sat 12:05-2:35-5-9:40 Sun 2:35-5-9:35 Mon 12:05-2:40-5-6:20 Tue 2:35-5-6:20-9:35 Wed 12:05-4:40 Thu 12:05
Spirited Away (PG) Sat 7 Mon 1
The Thing (R) Sat 10
True Grit (14A) Fri 9
Watermark (G) Fri-Wed 5:05 Thu 4:40
Whisper of the Heart (G) Mon 6 Thu 6:15

Albion Cinemas
1530 Albion Rd.

Dhoom 3 (PG) Fri-Sat 12:45-1:45-3:45-5:15-7:15-8:45-10:40-12:10 Sun 12:45-1:45-3:45-5:15-7:15-8:45-10:40 Mon-Thu 2:30-4:30-6-8:30-9:30

Queensway
1025 The Queensway

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:15-2:10-5:10-8:10-11:15
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:30-7:55-11:10 Mon-Tue 1:10-4:30-7:55-11:05 Wed 12:20-3:40-7:10-10:30 Thu 12:20-3:50-7:10-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 11:15-12:45-2:10-3:50-5:05-7-8-10:10-10:55 No Passes Sun 11:55-2:10-2:50-3:50-5:05-7-8-10:10-10:55 No Passes Mon 12:45-2:10-3:50-5:05-6:55-8-10:10-11 No Passes Tue 12:45-2:10-3:50-5:05-7-8-10:10-11 No Passes Wed 10:55-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:50 No Passes Thu 10:50-1:45-4:50-7:50-10:50
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Sat 12-2:35-5:25-8:10-10:45 Sun 2:35-5:25-8:05-10:45 Mon-Tue 12-2:35-5:25-8:10-10:45
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri-Sat 11:20 Sun 12:40 Mon-Tue 11:20 Wed 11 Thu 11:45
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Tue 2-5-7:50-10:35 Wed 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:20 Thu 2:20-5-7:55-10:35
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed 1:10-4-6:50-9:45 No Passes Thu 11:05-1:55-4:40-7:30-10:25
Her (14A) Wed 12:30-3:50-7-10:10 Thu 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:35-4:20-8:20 No Passes Sun 12:30-4:20-8:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 12:35-4:20-8:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:10-2:50-6:30-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:40-3:25-7:10-10:50 No Passes Wed 11:50-3:35-7:20-11:10 No Passes Thu 11:55-3:40-7:20-11:10 No Passes Fri-Sat 11:10-1:30-2:55-5:15-6:40-9-10:20 No Passes Sun-Mon 1:30-2:55-5:15-6:40-9-10:20 No Passes Tue 1:35-2:55-5:15-6:40-9-10:20
Holiday Inn (STC) Mon 7
Homefront (14A) Fri 12:25-3:15-5:50-8:30-11:05 Sat 3:10-5:50-8:30-11:05 Sun 5:50-8:30-11:05 Mon 1:25-4:10-9:50 Tue 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:40
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-4-7:30-11 Mon-Tue 12:15-4-7:30-10:55 Wed-Thu 12:40-4:10-7:40-11:05
Inside Llewyn Davis (14A) Wed 1:30-4:20-7:05-9:55 Thu 11-1:30-4:20-7-9:50
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Wed-Thu 10:55-2:30-6:20-10
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sat 1-3:35-6:30-9:10 Sun 12:05-3:35-6:30-9:10 Mon-Tue 1-3:35-6:30-9:10
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:20-4:40-7:40-10:40 No Passes Wed 1:45-4:55-8-11 No Passes Thu 10:50-1:50-4:55-8-11
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:20-2:20-5:20-8:20-11:15
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 3:45-6:50-9:45
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Tue 11:50 Wed 11:05-1 Thu 10:45-1:05
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:55 Wed 3:25-6-8:30-10:55 Thu 3:30-6:05-8:30-10:55
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 2:40-6:40-10:40 No Passes Thu 10:45-2:40-6:40-10:40



Woodbine Centre
500 Rexdale Blvd.

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:45-6:40-9:35 Tue 12:50-3:45-6:40 Wed 3:45-6:40-9:35 Thu 12:50-3:45-6:40-9:35
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:20-3:55-6:45-9:30 No Passes Tue 1:20-3:55-6:45 No Passes Wed 3:55-6:45-9:30 No Passes Thu 1:20-3:55-6:45-9:30
Frozen (G) Fri-Mon 1:15-4:15-7-9:25 Tue 1:15-4:15-7 Wed 4:15-7-9:25 Thu 1:15-4:15-7-9:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:45-1:10-4-4:30-7:30-8 No Passes Tue 12:45-1:10-4-4:30-7:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 4-7:30
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Wed 4:10-6:50-9:20 Thu 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:20
Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (14A) Fri-Mon 1:05-3:50-6:55-9:15 Tue 1:05-3:50-6:55 Wed 3:50-6:55-9:15 Thu 1:05-3:50-6:55-9:15
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Mon 12:55-2:55-5-7:05-9:10 Tue 12:55-2:55-5-7:05 Wed 5-7:05-9:10 Thu 12:55-2:55-5-7:05-9:10

Kingsway Theatre
3030 Bloor St. West

Blue Is the Warmest Color (R) Fri-Tue 9:30
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 3:15 Sun 3:15 Tue 3:15 Wed 3:40
A Christmas Story (STC) Tue 11:25 Wed 12
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Tue 7:30 Wed-Thu 9:30
Free Birds (G) Fri-Mon 11:25
Jingle Bell Rocks (PG) Fri-Tue 2:50
Muscle Shoals (PG) Fri-Thu 11:25-9:30
Nebraska (PG) Fri-Tue 5:30 Wed-Thu 5:55
Nicky's Family (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-7:35
Night Train to Lisbon (14A) Sat 3:15 Mon 3:15 Thu 3:40
Out of the Furnace (14A) Sat-Sun 9:30 Tue 9:30
Philomena (PG) Wed 7:55 Thu 12-7:55
Rush (14A) Fri-Tue 1:10 Wed-Thu 1:35
Wadjda (PG) Fri-Thu 4:20
When Jews Were Funny (14A) Fri-Tue 6 Wed-Thu 2:50-6

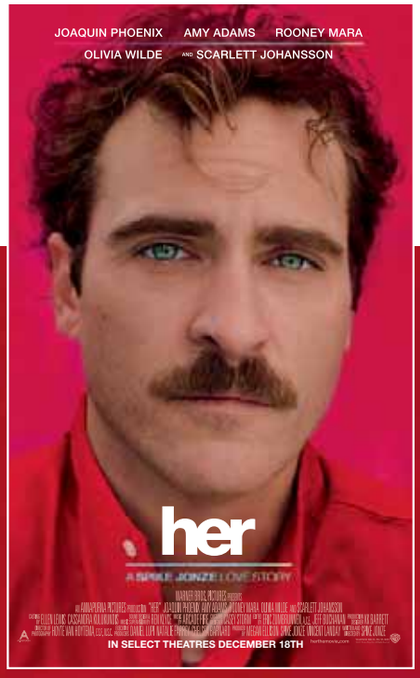
Humber Cinema
2:2442 Bloor St. West

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:40 Tue 12:30-3:30-6:45 Wed 3:30-6:45-9:40 Thu 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:40
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri-Mon 12:45-3:45-7-9:50 Tue 12:45-3:45-7 Wed 3:45-7-9:50 Thu 12:45-3:45-7-9:50
Frozen (G) Fri-Mon 1-4-7:10-9:30 Tue 1-4-7:10 Wed 4-7:10 Thu 1-4-7:10-9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Mon 12-3:10-6:30-10 Tue 12-3:10-6:30 Wed 3:10-6:30-10 Thu 12-3:10-6:30-10

Beach Cinemas
1651 Queen St. E.

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:50-4-7:15-10:15 Tue 12:50-4-7:15 Wed 4-7:15-10:15 Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:15
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 2-4:50-7:40-10:40 No Passes Tue 2-4:50-7:40 No Passes Wed 4:30-7:40-10:40 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:40
Frozen (G) Fri-Tue 12:30 Thu 12:30
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Mon 3:45-6:30-9:10 Tue 3:45-6:30 Wed-Thu 3:45-6:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4:30-8

YOU COULD WIN TICKETS TO SEE



VISIT clubmetro.com TO ENTER

No purchase necessary. Contest open to residents of Canada, excluding Quebec, who have reached the age of majority (18) years of age or older. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. Twenty (20) Prizes are available to be won, consisting of two tickets to see 'Her' during its run of engagement. (approximate retail value $26). Skill testing question required. Contest closes December 22, 2013 at 11.59PM (EST).To enter and for complete contest rules visit www.clubmetro.com

Humber Cinema
2:2442 Bloor St. West

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12-3:30-7-10:30 No Passes Tue 12-3:30-7 No Passes Wed 3:30-7-10:30 No Passes Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Wed-Thu 9:30
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15 Thu 12:15
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 2:35-5-7:25-9:45 Tue 2:35-5-7:25 Wed 5-7:25-9:45 Thu 2:35-5-7:25-9:45
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 4:45-8:40 No Passes Thu 12:45-4:45-8:40

Fox Theatre
2236 Queen St. E.

Captain Phillips (14A) Thu 9
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 3D (G) Thu 2
The Counselor (14A) Fri-Sun 9 Mon 7
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Sun 2
Enough Said (PG) Fri-Sun 4:15-7 Mon 9:15
Gravity 3D (PG) Thu 4-7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue-Wed

Empress Walk
5095 Yonge St.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sat 12:05-3:10-6:25-9:30 Sun 3:10-6:25-9:30 Mon 12:05-3:10-6:25-9:30 Tue 12:05-3:10-6:25
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:20-3:40-7-10:20 Tue 12:20-3:40-7 Wed-Thu 12:20-3:40-7-10:20
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 2-5-7:50-10:45 No Passes Tue 2-5-7:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:45
Frozen (G) Fri-Thu 11
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Mon 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:25 Tue-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:40
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:25-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:40-5:20-9 No Passes Tue 1:40-5:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 11:10-2:50-6:30-10:10 No Passes Tue 11:10-2:50-6:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Tue 12-3:30-7:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:50
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Mon 12:30-4-7:30-11 Tue 12:30-4-7:30 Wed-Thu 10:25
Inside Llewyn Davis (14A) Wed-Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Wed-Thu 11:45-3:20-6:55-10:30
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:05 Mon 1:30-4:20-6:55-9:15 Tue 1:30-4:20-7:20
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:45-3:50-6:50-10 No Passes Sun 12:15-3:50-6:50-10 No Passes Mon 12:45-3:50-6:50-10 No Passes Tue 12:45-3:50-6:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:50-10
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:15
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:40-5:40-9:40

SilverCity Yorkdale 6
3401 Dufferin St.

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 No Passes Thu 10:55-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:50
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45 No Passes Sat 11-2-5-8-11 No Passes Sun-Mon 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30 No Passes Wed 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:35 No Passes Thu 10:45-1:40-4:35-7:35-10:35
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri 1 Sat 11 Sun-Mon 1 Tue 12-1 Wed 11:45-12 Thu 11
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 3:55-7:05-10:10 Sat 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:10 Sun-Mon 4-6:55-9:45 Tue 4-6:55 Wed 2:35-5:20-8:10 Thu 1:45-4:35-7:25
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed 1:05-4-7-9:50 No Passes Thu 11:10-2-4:55-7:55-10:55
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:45-5:20-9 No Passes Sun-Mon 1:20-5:10-9 No Passes Tue 2:30-6:10 No Passes Wed 2:55-6:35-10:15 No Passes Thu 11:20-2:55-6:35-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Sat 11:20-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Sun-Mon 2:20-6:10-10 No Passes Tue 12:40-4:10-7:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:55-3:35-7:15-10:55 No Passes Fri-Sat 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Sun-Mon 12-3:30-7-10:30 No Passes Tue 12-3:30-7
Homefront (14A) Fri-Mon 1:25-4:05-6:45-9:30 Tue 1:25-4:05-6:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

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metro

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(PG) Fri-Mon 12:10-3:35-7-10:25 Tue 12:10-3:35-7 Wed 12:05-3:30-6:55-10:20 Thu 12:10-3:30-6:55-10:20
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed 1:30-4:25-7:20-10:25 No Passes Thu 11:05-1:55-4:50-7:45-10:45
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 3:50-6:50-9:50 Tue 3:50-6:50
Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (14A) Fri 2:25-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sat 11:45-2:25-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sun-Mon 2:10-4:55-7:40-10:20 Tue 2:10-4:55-7:40 Wed 10:50 Thu 10:15
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri 12 Sat 12:10 Sun-Thu 12
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri 12:30-2:30-5-7:30-10 Sat 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sun-Mon 2:30-5-7:30-10 Tue 2:30-5-7:30 Wed 11:50-2:30-5-7:30-10 Thu 2:30-5-7:30-10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 2:40-6:40-10:40 No Passes Thu 10:45-2:40-6:40-10:40

Silvercity Fairview 1800 Sheppard Ace. E

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 1:20-4:35-7:30-10:25 No Passes Thu 11:05-2-4:55-7:55-11
American Hustle (14A) Fri 1-4:05-7:20-10:30 Sat 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:30 Sun-Mon 12:05-3:20-6:45-9:55 Tue 1:10-4:25-7:50 Wed 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri 1:40-4:45-7:40-10:35 No Passes Sat 11:05-1:50-4:45-7:40-10:35 No Passes Sun-Mon 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:10 No Passes Tue 2-5-8 No Passes Wed 1-4:10-7:20-10:15 No Passes Thu 11:15-2:15-5:05-8:10-11:10
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
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Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:10 No Passes Thu 11:40-2:30-5:20-8:15-11:05
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Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:20-7:15-10:10 Sun-Mon 4:25-7:25-10:20 Tue 4:50-7:40
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri 1:15 Sat 11:20 Sun-Mon 11:55 Tue-Wed 12:40 Thu 11
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri 4:15-6:50-9:20 Sat 1:45-4:15-6:50-9:20 Sun-Mon 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:45 Tue 3:10-5:40-8:05 Wed 4:15-6:50-9:20 Thu 1:20-3:45-6:10-8:30-10:55
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 12:30-3-6:45-10:35 No Passes Thu 11:10-3-6:50-10:35

Coliseum Scarborough 300 Borough Dr.

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35 No Passes Thu 11:15-2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Tue 12:50-4:05-7:15-10:25 Wed 12:45-3:55-7:05-10:15 Thu 12:50-4-7:15-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri 2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45 No Passes Sat 11:15-2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45 No Passes Sun-Tue 2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45 No Passes Wed 1:15-4:15-7:25-10:25 No Passes Thu 11:25-2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
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Frozen 3D (G) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:40 Sat 4:05-6:45-9:40 Sun-Tue 3:45-6:45-9:40 Wed 4-7 Thu 2:40-5:20-8
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed 1:30-4:25-7:10-10:05 No Passes Thu 11:15-2-4:50-7:35-10:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:05-4:40-8:15 No Passes Wed 2:45-6:20-9:55 No Passes Thu 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:15

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ADVANCING GENERICS

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300 Borough Dr.

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12-3:30-7-10:40 No Passes Wed 12:15-3:45-7:15-10:45 No Passes Thu 12:15-3:45-7:20-10:55 No Passes Fri-Tue 1:45-5:20-9
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sat 2-4:45-7:35-10:15 Sun 4:45-7:35-10:15 Mon-Tue 2-4:45-7:35-10:15
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Tue 12:25-3:50-7:10-10:35 Wed 12:20-3:40-7-10:30 Thu 1-4:20-7:40-11
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 No Passes Thu 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed 2-4:50-7:40-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:45-2:30-5:25-8:10-11
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Tue 12:55
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 3:55-7-9:55
Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (14A) Fri-Tue 1:45-4:25-7:05-10 Wed 9:45 Thu 10:35
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15 Wed 1:45 Thu 11
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 2:35-5-7:25-9:45 Wed 4:10-6:45-9:15 Thu 1:20-3:40-6:05-8:30-10:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 2:20-6:15-10:10 No Passes Thu 11:10-3-6:50-10:40

Eglinton Town Centre
1901 Eglinton Ave. E.

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 2-4:50-7:55-10:55 No Passes Thu 11-1:50-4:45-7:45-10:40
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Tue 12:45-4:05-7:25-10:50 Wed 12:40-4:05-7:25-10:50 Thu 12:30-3:50-7:05-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri 8 No Passes Sat-Mon 1:05-2:10-4-5:05-7-8-9:55-10:55 No Passes Tue 8 No Passes Wed 12:50-1:50-3:50-4:45-6:45-7:45-9:45-10:45 No Passes Thu 11:20-1:10-2:15-4:05-5:10-7-8:05-10:10-11:10 No Passes Fri 1:05-2:10-4-5:05-7-9:55-10:55 No Passes Tue 1:05-2:10-4-5:05-7-9:55-10:55
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri-Sun 2:05-5:05-8:05-11 Mon 12:30-3:30-9:50 Tue 2:05-5:05-8:05-11
Dhoom 3 (PG) Fri-Tue 2:55-6:45-10:35 Wed 2:10-6:40-10:35 Thu 11:05-2:50-6:45-10:45
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
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Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Tue 2:40-5:20-7:55-10:20 Wed 2:40-5:15-7:50 Thu 2:40-5:20-8
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed 1:45-4:35-7:25-10:15 No Passes Thu 11:15-2-4:50-7:40-10:35
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Holiday Inn (STC) Mon 7
Homefront (14A) Fri-Tue 12:15-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Tue 12:20-3:40-7:05-10:40 Wed 3-6:30-10 Thu 4:10-7:35-11
Justin Bieber's Believe (PG) Wed 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Thu 12:05-2:30-5-7:30-10
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Wed 11:30-3:10-6:50-10:30 Thu 11:15-2:45-6:30-10:05
Philomena (PG) Fri-Tue 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40 Wed 12:25 Thu 1:40
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:25 No Passes Thu 11-1:55-4:55-7:55-10:55
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed 11:35-2:25-5:20-8:10-11 No Passes Thu 11:40-2:30-5:20-8:10-11:05
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Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri 12 Sat 11:20-12 Sun-Wed 12 Thu 11-1:20
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 2:30-5-7:30-10 Wed 2:30-5-7:30-9:55 Thu 3:45-6:15-8:40-11:10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 12:45-4:45-8:45 No Passes Thu 11:10-3-6:55-10:50

401 & Morningside
785 Milner Ave.

47 Ronin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed 4:30-7:40-10:30 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:30-7:40-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Fri 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:15 No Passes Sat 11:10-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:15 No Passes Sun-Mon 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:15 No Passes Tue 1:50-4:40-7:30 No Passes Wed 2:20-4:20-7:30-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:15
The Best Man Holiday (14A) Fri-Mon 1:15-4-6:50-9:45 Tue 1:15-4-6:50
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
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Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Mon 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:20 Tue 2:40-5:15-7:45 Wed 2:50-5:20-8 Thu 2:45-5:20-8
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 1-3:15-5:45-8:10-10:25 Tue 1-3:15-5:30-7:45
Grudge Match (14A) No Passes Wed 4:10-7:20-10 No Passes Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 1:35-2:35-5-6-8:30-9:35 No Passes Sat 11:05-1:35-2:35-5-6-8:30-9:35 No Passes Sun-Mon 1:35-2:35-5-6-8:30-9:35 No Passes Tue 1:35-2:35-5-6 No Passes Wed 5-8:30 No Passes Thu 1:20-5-8:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:05-3:30-7-10:25 No Passes Tue 12:05-3:30-7 No Passes Wed 3:30-7-10:25 No Passes Thu 12-3:30-7-10:25
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Mon 12:25-3:35-6:45-9:55 Tue 12:25-3:35-6:45 Wed-Thu 10:35
Justin Bieber's Believe (PG) Wed 3:10-5:30-8:10-10:30 Thu 12:55-3:10-5:30-8:10-10:30
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:25-4:20-7:20-10:10 No Passes Tue 1:25-4:20-7:20 No Passes Wed 3:45-6:50-9:45 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:45-6:50-9:45
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) No Passes Wed 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:35 No Passes Thu 2:15-5:10-7:50-10:35
Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (14A) Fri-Mon 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:40-10:05 Tue 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:40 Wed-Thu 9:30
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri 12:10-2:25-4:50 Sat 11:15-12:10-2:25-4:50 Sun-Tue 12:10-2:25-4:50 Wed 2:30 Thu 12:10-2:30 Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 7:10-9:25 Tue 7:10 Wed-Thu 4:50-7:10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) No Passes Wed 4:40-8:45 No Passes Thu 12:45-4:40-8:45

Woodside Cinemas
1571 Sandhurst Circle

Biriyani (STC) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Dhoom 3 (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45
Endrendrum Punnagai (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15

Shoot those carolers

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Tired of all the usual Christmas tunage? Let me offer you some alternatives.

Rob Ford Got Run Over by a Reindeer/ Eh440

Not only does this song offer a new twist on the Elmo & Patsy classic, but it also manages to work in a rhyme using "Councilor Denzil Minnan-Wong."

Why Didn't You Put Up the Xmas Tree?/ CCF Devastators

A Ramones-like decorating complaint from this Calgary group who claim that the video was directed by Tommy Douglas.

Let It Snow!/ Captain Picard

What if you had the time to go through all the Star Trek: TNG episodes and piece together Jean-Luc in such a way that he appears to recite a Christmas song? Make it so.

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5 The best tech gifts of 2013

METRO WORLD NEWS

Nexus 7

Of course you want an iPad Air, but this is the next best thing: an Android device with a sharp screen and high speed that's easy to hold.
$249, amazon.ca

Minecraft Magnet Set

These would be great for a friend's fridge — especially if your friend stays up all night drinking Red Bull and building infinite worlds.
$9.99 US, thinkgeek.com

Bose Quiet Comfort 15

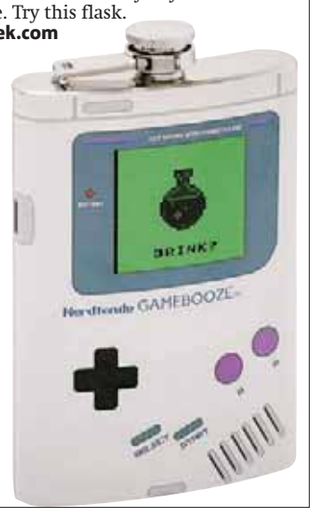
You paid how much for headphones? That's the beauty, see; it's the holidays. Someone should buy these for you. They're noise cancelling and the best there is.
$329.99, amazon.ca

Jawbone Mini Jambox

It looks like a big Lego brick, but in fact it's a small speaker — palm-sized, and one of the best to travel with.
$180, amazon.ca

Nerdendo Gamebooze

Scared of Bowser? Lost in Zelda? Maybe you need some liquid courage. Try this flask.
$19.99 US, thinkgeek.com



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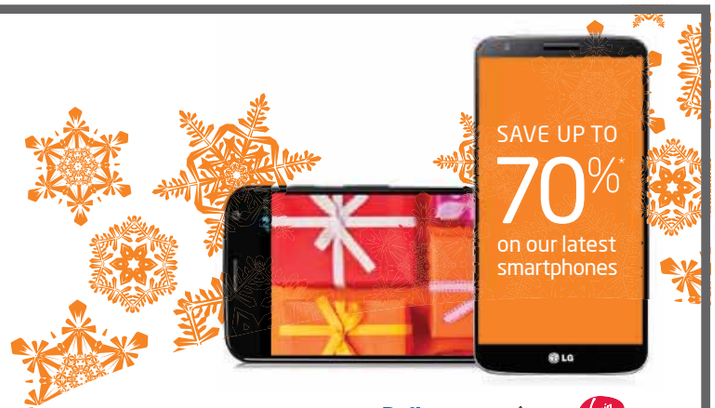


ROGERS Bell fido Virgin mobile

We played the PS4...

... and here are the games to buy this holiday season.

SAM CASTONE
Metro World News

FIFA 14

The soccer classic is back, and it looks just like a match on TV — except you can play it. Nerds will tell you there's a new "engine" called Ignite behind the visuals, but what's important is that the photo-realism translates to the play: Limbs look like moving limbs, allowing for the illusion of complete control. (The crowd in the background appears remarkably alive as well.) Goaaaaaal, indeed.

Negatives: There's no tournament mode, as in other editions.

Killzone: Shadowfall

"Wow, a new Killzone!" people nowhere are saying. The game series, now a Playstation exclusive, has always been just generic enough to get by without becoming a phenomenon. But this version of the shooter offers some surprises (the space war heats up) and epic, Inception-like world-bending that really shows off the PS4's graphics.

Negatives: It still pales in comparison to most other first-person shoot-em-ups.

NBA 2K14

Like FIFA, this is another EA Sports game, which means it's got the same photo-realism — right down to LeBron James' frowny eyebrows. (The company reportedly scanned 80 per cent of the league's faces.) The gameplay is as fluid as ever. The leading b-ball franchise out there, 2K14 ensures you'll never set foot on an actual court.

Negatives: A manager mode, in which you sit at a desk — aiiiirballl.

Assassins Creed IV: Black Flag

Like the other games here, save Killzone, Creed is available on other platforms, so don't buy a PS4 just for this. But the historical adventure, set among pirates in the Caribbean, looks stunning, with water you could dive in, and it really shows off the system's "remote play" feature, which requires the PlayStation Vita — you can start a game on the console and pick it up again on the mobile device.

Negatives: If you already own this, don't buy it again.

What's new?

- The Dualshock 4 controller feels familiar yet more comfortable to hold.
- You can use a PlayStation Vita — the handheld gaming device — to continue games.
- Follow friends' progress— up to 2,000 of them.

Lego Marvel Superheroes

Some people play with Legos to build things. Most people play with Legos to build things and then smash things up. They'll love this new entry in the Lego canon, which finds Iron Man and friends teaming up to basically just destroy stuff, going after some villains. (Everything is made of blocks.) Unlock 130 Marvel characters such as Thor, Wolverine, Spider-Man, the Hulk and Captain America.

Negatives: The game is already available on the Playstation 3 and Xbox 360, where it's basically the same.

Or, consider this

The Xbox One: Is it No. 1?

When the zombies attack, and you need backup, would you rather press a button and wait — or bark orders to activate your team? The new Kinect, which reads your movements and understands voice commands,comes built into the Xbox One, and is more responsive than the previous iteration (as in, it understands you now, as opposed to sucking). That makes games like Dead Rising 3 feel more immersive.

Right now, that's about the only glowing thing we can say about this new system, at least from a gaming perspective. Sure, you can buy Assassins Creed IV, FIFA and some of the same games as on the PS4. But it's more of a multimedia hub, acting as your console, your Netflix, your Blu-Ray player, your DVR and your Internet.

FINAL VERDICT. The PS4 launch titles demonstrate the machine is capable of high-res visuals that look like real life. But with only one exclusive game, don't expect to really see what's possible until the new titles debut next year.

The other key games this holiday season

Mobile and more.
What's available beyond the big platforms? Racing avians, digital dice and a land made out of paper

SAM CASTONE
Metro World News

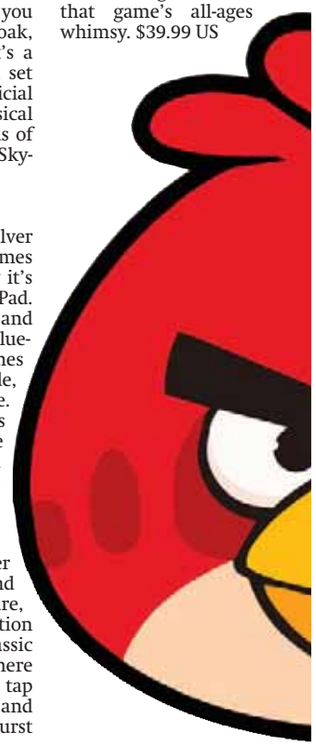
Angry Birds Go!
Angry Birds creator Rovio takes a page from the Mario Kart playbook, porting Red, Chuck, Bomb and Bubbles (and their pig nemeses) into a racing game, where you can blast one another using special power-ups. Kids who buy Telepods — physical playsets, found in toy stores — can import their characters as well. It's available for download and it's free, though you can pay to pimp your ride.

Dice +
Trying to bring the board game back, Dice+ does so digitally. The small cube looks like a die but with illuminated numbers instead of dots. Roll it, and it lights up and sends messages — via Bluetooth — to a game on your iPad. So-called powered board games include backgammon, a pirate adventure and the Twister-with-fingers Rumble Stumble. $39.99 US, Dicepl.us

The Elder Scrolls Anthology
Dan Harmon, creator of Community, is a fan. The latest edition sold 20 million copies. And one player named her child Dovahkiin as part of a contest. The role-playing Elder Scrolls series has a devoted following, and if you know a fellow Stormcloak, they'd appreciate this. It's a gorgeously-produced box set with all five games, official add-ons and five physical maps detailing the worlds of Morrowind, Tamriel and Skyrim. PC, $79.99

iPad Arcade Stand
It's the dream of every Silver Spoons fan: Arcade games right in your home. Now it's a reality, if you own an iPad. Plug it into the iCade and the joystick works, via Bluetooth, with classic games like Pac-Man, Centipede, Asteroids and 500 more. And even though it looks small, the controls are full-sized. Quarters and roller rink not included. $100 US, ionaudio.com.

Tearaway
Set in a land made of paper people, paper trees and paper tigers, this adventure, for the handheld PlayStation Vita, channels that classic Daffy Duck cartoon where the artist erases him. You tap the back of the device and your finger appears to burst through the action — or swipe the screen and unfurl a bridge. It's from the creators of Little Big Planet and has that game's all-ages whimsy. $39.99 US



Kris Kringl review

Need proof that Santa was there?

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

Kringl
iPhone/Android
Free

Santa won't come unless kids are asleep, but you can record video proof for them using this Make-A-Wish Canada app that captures the jolly man making preparations within your home.

Video game review

Name. The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds

For. Nintendo 3DS

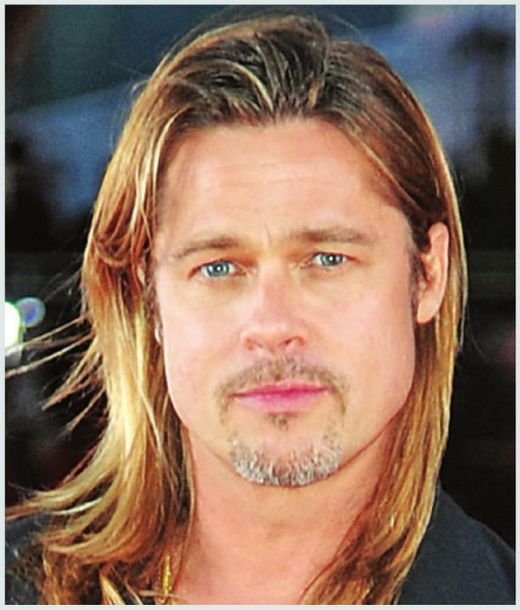
Rated. Everyone

The glasses-free 3D in this latest Zelda adventure is so incredibly convincing, it's as if there is no screen at all and you're playing a game inside a box, where the pieces can fall deeper inside or fly out past the lid to swipe at your nose. Even the sound seems to carry over a distance. Add to that an effect where Link can turn into a painting and travel along the walls and you have a masterful retelling of a story you'd expect, after 16 sequels, to be all too familiar. **KRIS ABEL**

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Brad Pitt playing down his milestone birthday

While Brad Pitt has previously seemed at peace with turning 50 this week, his birthday plans — or lack thereof — suggest something else.

"He's not doing anything for it and he said he doesn't want any surprises," a source tells Us Weekly.

"He really doesn't want to talk about his birthday much."

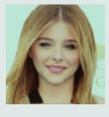
Of course, work is keeping him pretty busy, as Pitt is currently filming his Second World War drama, Fury, in London while Angelina Jolie is in Australia working on Unbroken.

Pitt will reportedly join her there this weekend, though, so there will be some sort of celebration of his milestone birthday.

"Brad said he's going to celebrate his birthday this weekend in Australia," the source says. "That's going to be the only thing he does."

Twitter

@SteveMartinToGo
My War on Christmas not going so well this year. Bought a carload of presents and now I'm drunk on eggnog.



@ChloeGMoretz
Some girls need to just grow up, stop being immature and act like an adult.

@RebelWilson
When my ugg boots take more than 2 seconds to put on I'm like ugh! Too much effort

Miley Cyrus' tongue a nervous tick

The truth behind Miley Cyrus' penchant for sticking out her tongue in photos is that she's actually just really nervous, she insists in an interview with Barbara Walters.

"I get embarrassed to take pictures. That's actually the truth," she says.

"I'm so embarrassed, because people are taking pictures of me, and I just don't know how to — I don't know how to smile, and just be awkward, so I stick my tongue out, because I don't know what else to do."

Cyrus first made her trademark tongue pose as part of her Blurred Lines song with Robin Thicke.

Miley Cyrus. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

HOLIDAY 2013 m gift guide

SUNNY STUDIO-IGOR YARUTA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Develop a knack for photography with these cameras — PAGE 50

Will you say 'Yes' to a romantic time of year? — PAGE 52

These gifts combine a little fun with learning — PAGE 55

5 shopping days left

For more holiday gift ideas, please visit holiday.metronews.ca

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PADERNO — Reg. $69 — SAVE 70% — $19 — NEW — DuraPro 3L Saute Pan with Cover

Panasonic — Reg. $189 — SAVE 60% — $59 White/Black, $79 Stainless-steel — 1.2Cu Ft Microwave

Saeco — Reg. $699 — SAVE 60% — $299 — ODEA Espresso Machine

Reg. $129 — SAVE 55% — CHAPS — 700 Thread Count Cotton Bed Sheet Set — NEW — $49 Queen Size $59 King Size

Reg. $39 — SAVE 75% — $9.99 — NEW — UltraTough Ultrasteel 22 Piece SAE & Metric Combination Wrench Set

Reg. $80 — SAVE 50% — $40 — NEW — iSupe Tank IOS/Andoird Controlled

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Your little angels

Heart Sweater, $24 available at Joe Fresh stores, joefresh.com.

Genuine Kids From OshKosh Tutu Skirt In Pink, $22, available at Target stores, target.ca.

Toddler Girls Earmuffs, $16.95, available at the Gap and babyGap stores, gapcanada.ca.

Purple Blouse With Hearts, $12.99, available at Marshalls stores, marshallscanada.ca.

Navy dress, $19, available at Joe Fresh stores, joefresh.com.

Socks, $9.95, available at La Vie en Rose stores, lavieenrose.com.

ASUS recommends Windows 8.

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Favourite Pecan Pie. NEWS CANADA

Recipe. Favourite Pecan Pie

Stay on track this season by serving delicious, calorie-reduced versions of traditional festive desserts. Lightly sweetened with naturally-sourced stevia, this pecan pie will make a tempting addition to any holiday table and appease guests young and old.

Ingredients:
- 1 refrigerated pie crust from a 15-ounce (425-gram) package
- 2 large eggs
- 2 large egg whites
- 1 cup (250 ml) sugar-free maple syrup
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) Pure Via granulated
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) molasses
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1 cup (250 ml) pecan halves
- Sugar-free whipped topping (optional)

Instructions:

1 Preheat oven to 350 F. Roll pie crust to an 11-inch (28-centimetre) circle. Fit into a nine-inch (23-centimetre) pie plate. Flute edges; set aside.

2 Whisk eggs and egg whites until blended. Whisk in sugar-free syrup, Pure Via sweetener, molasses, flour, vanilla and salt until combined. Stir in pecans. Pour into pie crust.

3 Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool completely on wire rack before serving. Top each piece with sugar-free whipped topping, if desired. Makes eight servings.

NEWS CANADA

Send the gift of money from wherever you are

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Spiced Mexican Coffee. NEWS CANADA

Recipe. Spiced Mexican Coffee

There is nothing quite like the comforting feeling that a warm drink provides on a cold, winter night. Whether you are relaxing at home with family or socializing with friends, this Spiced Mexican Coffee recipe is just the thing to bring everyone together. Lightly sweetened with naturally-sourced stevia, this holiday treat has only 26 calories per serving, which means you don't have to feel guilty about having another cup.

Ingredients:
- 4 cups (1 litre) water
- 6 cinnamon sticks
- 2 vanilla beans split
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- ⅓ cup (75 ml) finely ground Viennese or Italian roast coffee
- 6 packets Pure Via sweetener
- ¾ cup (175 ml) 1% low fat milk, steamed

Instructions:

1 Combine water, cinnamon sticks, vanilla beans and honey in three-quart (three-litre) saucepan. Heat on medium heat to boiling, stirring frequently.

2 Stir in coffee and Pure Via sweetener. Remove from heat. Let steep five minutes.

3 Strain coffee into six small mugs. Discard cinnamon and vanilla. Top evenly with steamed milk and serve. Makes six servings.

Tips: Vanilla beans can be split open lengthwise with a small knife, adding more flavour to the coffee. The tiny vanilla seeds can be used on top of the steamed milk. If vanilla beans are not available, use vanilla extract to taste.

NEWS CANADA

0%

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Nikon Df — $3,099.95

Fujifilm X20 — $549

Sony Alpha 7 — $1,699.99 (body only)

Bigshot DIY Digital Camera — $89

Canon EOS 70D — $1,299.99

Festive focus

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

While many smartphones take impressive photos, any photographer will tell you they have yet to match the quality of standalone cameras. Here are a few of the best devices to truly impress the shutterbug on your list

Nikon Df — $3,099.95

A modern camera in a retro-style body. While many cameras feature touch-screen controls and menus, the 16.2-megapixel Nikon Df brings back classic mechanical dials to change settings, creating a simple approach to photography. If you are feeling techie you can use the optional wireless adapter to browse the camera's memory card on your smartphone or tablet.

Sony Alpha 7 — $1,699.99 (body only)

The world's smallest and lightest interchangeable lens full-frame camera. This 24.3-megapixel camera is full of features, including lightning quick autofocus, a tillable three-inch OLED display, and the ability to record uncompressed 1080p HD video.

Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS30 — $399.99

A lot of features at a relatively low price point. This compact camera has a 20X zoom, three-inch touchscreen along with GPS capabilities so you always know where you took your pictures. If you have an Android phone you can control your camera remotely via Wi-Fi or automatically upload your pictures to social media.

Canon PowerShot SX280 HS — $269.95

A point-and-shoot with modes for every photographer, Canon's Smart Auto mode recognizes 58 predefined shooting situations so pictures turn out in even the strangest lighting conditions. This compact camera also features a whopping 20X optical zoom, which is impressive despite its small size.

Fujifilm X20 — $549

The camera that's ready when you are. The 12-megapixel Fujifilm X20 starts up in 0.5 seconds, auto focuses in 0.06 seconds and can snap photos in 0.01 seconds. This entry-level premium camera has a large optical viewfinder, the ability to shoot in RAW mode and a hot shoe for those who prefer an external flash.

Canon EOS 70D — $1,299.99

A full-feature DSLR with plenty of controls. Advanced users will love the in-depth options while beginners can take advantage of the simplistic basic mode. Those with a creative mind will love the Live View filter mode, which adds dream-like, miniature and colour filters in real time so you know what your photo will look like before you snap the shutter.

Pentax WG-10 — $199

The ultimate camera for the adventurer in your life. This 14-megapixel camera is crushproof, shockproof and waterproof. What really sets this camera apart is the digital microscope mode, which allows for magnified pictures of the smallest subjects — from insects to veins on leaves.

Bonzart Ampel — $180

It may look like a toy, but the Bonzart Ampel camera is anything but. This dual-lens camera is designed to shoot tilt-shift photos, a cool effect that makes everything look like miniature scale models. A unique gift for that creative person on your shopping list.

Bigshot DIY Digital Camera — $89

A camera for those who are curious about learning, the Bigshot camera comes in pieces, allowing the user to not only put it together, but learn about how cameras work in the process. At three megapixels, this camera may not take professional quality pictures, but the built-in lens wheel that toggles between regular, panoramic and 3D photos will ensure hours of fun for youngsters.

Bonzart Ampel — $180, clockwise, from left, Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS30 — $399.99, Canon PowerShot SX280 HS — $269.95, and Pentax WG-10 — $199.

Dashing through the snow

The newest addition and the sporting pinnacle of the Jaguar XJ lineup is the XJR. CONTRIBUTED

The Range Rover Supercharged. CONTRIBUTED

The Ford Fiesta ST. CONTRIBUTED

The Lincoln MKZ. CONTRIBUTED

Santa will understand if you put one of these cool sleighs on your Christmas wish list. Whether your budget is naughty or nice, here are some great autos for dashing through the snow.

JAGUAR XJR ($119,990)

The newest addition and the sporting pinnacle of the Jaguar XJ lineup is the XJR. New exterior styling has given this stealthy sleigh an assertive appearance. A front splitter, special hood louvres and quad tailpipes also add to the car's sporty look.

This new generation XJR offers an exhilarating ride combined with the luxury and refinement associated with the brand. Heart-pounding performance is provided by a 5.0-litre supercharged V8 engine that boasts 550 horsepower.

RANGE ROVER ($115,000)

The Range Rover Supercharged offers a level of luxury that gets the royal nod. Underneath the sumptuous interior lining of leather is the solid protection of a tank. The Rover is well-known to be a thirsty beast. So with a goal to make it more fuel efficient, it was put on a diet and is now 317 kilograms (700 pounds) lighter than the previous model. As a result, the new aluminum unibody offers an improvement in fuel economy — 16.6/10.6 L/100 km (city/highway). It also has Transmission Idle Control, which disengages 70 per cent of the drive power when idling.

No matter what terrain you are tackling, the Rover automatically knows the kind of traction you need — whether you are climbing rocks or descending on sand.

It is also practically amphibious. This Rover can dog-paddle you through a flood up to about 850 millimetres (33 inches).

The supercharged 5.0-litre V8 engine offers 510 horsepower, but with such road-silencing features and finishes, and an amazingly smooth ride, you will need to keep one eye on the speedometer.

LINCOLN MKZ ($39,000)

Sit in the new MKZ and for a second or two you will wonder how to put this beauty into gear. Look up on the dashboard and you will see it has an automatic push-button shift. Although it's strange at first to shift into gear with your finger, the design idea frees up console space.

Select the operating mode — sport, normal or comfort — that suits your preference. Whether you are driving on dry pavement, snow, mud or gravel, you will feel confident knowing it is equipped with all-wheel drive (optional with the 2.0-litre EcoBoost and 3.7-litre V6 engines).

FORD FIESTA ST ($24,999)

Looks are deceiving with the Ford Fiesta ST. This hot hatchback might look small, but it packs a whopping punch for its size with a 1.6-litre EcoBoost engine producing 197 horsepower, about 20 per cent more than the previous model. You can accelerate from zero to 100 km/h in less than seven seconds.

The six-speed manual transmission makes it super-fun to drive. The steering is direct and responsive. Plus, the suspension has been modified for a quicker, overall steering ratio.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The holiday season is a busy time for engagements as people get imaginative and romantic with their proposals. ALTAFULLA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Creating that fairy tale touch to the holidays

HEATHER BEAUMONT
For Metro

Four years ago, Craig Roy of It's All About You Event Planning learned that the rules of engagement begin with an imaginative marriage proposal.

A client decided to propose over the holidays and Roy and his special events team in Halifax suggested proposal options.

"The one that our client loved was going for a walk with their dogs and returning home to play outside in the snow," Roy wrote in an email. "They built a snowman together, including the props — carrot, scarf, twigs and mittens. Once the snowman was built, our client dug out a piece of the snowman's belly and placed the open ring box in the hole for his girlfriend to find."

Although clients often bring their own ideas, Roy and other marriage proposal planners pitch ideas.

"We ask consultation questions of our clients to get to know them and their ideas," Roy wrote. "The type of proposal really depends on their personality and who they are."

For Socrates Reppas of Marquis Jewellers in Toronto, the holiday season is a busy time of year.

"I have five engagement rings ready for pickup," he said. "They order custom diamond engagement rings from $1,600 to $150,000 to propose over the holidays. A lot of them like to propose on New Year's Eve."

Reppas' face brightens as he recounts the marriage proposals of love-struck men who enter his store to buy engagement rings. "They tell me what they're going to do when they buy the ring."

One man arranged to have his girlfriend drive by herself to his aunt's house in Niagara Falls. She arrived at sunset and turned into a long, tree-lined driveway lit up with Christmas tree lights. At the end of a driveway of about 100 metres, the path curved to reveal the house decorated with a big sign that read, "Will You Marry Me?"

"Some clients want to go above and beyond for their fiancée," Roy wrote. "Some want the fairy tale story to tell their friends and family about how they got engaged."

Reppas believes there is much more to holiday proposals.

"They propose marriage over the holidays and on New Year's Eve to be romantic."

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Spice up the season with these scents for him

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

Fresh, spicy and sexy scents for the men in your life.

Banana Republic Wildblue Noir is an after 5 p.m. aromatic woody scent of aquatic, spicy, musk, leather and dark chocolate notes. $60 at Banana Republic.

Bottega Veneta Pour Homme features a fresh, spicy fragrance that blends bergamot, pimento, balsam and patchouli. $80 at Holt Renfrew.

Boucheron pour Homme offers a crisp, citrus and wood scent of green basil, ylang-ylang, vetiver and sandalwood. $125 at Hudson's Bay.

Clean White Woods has a modern, clean, soapy, yet warm, woody fragrance she can wear, too. From $39 at Sephora.

Givenchy Gentlemen Only features an elegant, fresh, yet sensual blend of citrus, spice, woods and incense. From $67 at Hudson's Bay and Sephora.

Gucci Made to Measure Pour Homme is a luxurious oriental spicy fragrance of floral, fruity, spicy, and warm leather and amber notes. From $80 at Sephora.

L'Occitane En Provence Cèdre & Oranger offers a cool, zesty scent of citrus, cedar, musk and cedarwood. $75 at L'Occitane boutiques and loccitane.ca

Le Labo Vetiver 46 is an outdoorsy fresh scent of crisp vetiver with smoky, spicy undertones. From $170. See lelabofragrances.com for retailers.

Ralph Lauren Polo Red is a revved-up composition of zingy citrus, spice, amber and woods. From $75 at department stores and pharmacies.

Prada Luna Rossa Limited Edition offers an intensely fresh aromatic scent with spicy, amber and lavender notes. $88 at Holt Renfrew.

Yves Saint Laurent Nuit de L'Homme Collector Edition is an opulent, seductive scent of citrus, warm spice and woods in a matte black flacon. $96 at Hudson's Bay.

Prada Luna Rossa Limited Edition, clockwise, from bottom, Ralph Lauren Polo Red, Bottega Veneta Pour Homme, Givenchy Gentlemen Only, Gucci Made to Measure Pour Homme, L'Occitane En Provence Cèdre & Oranger, Banana Republic Wildblue Noir, Le Labo Vetiver 46, Clean White Woods, and Yves Saint Laurent Nuit de L'Homme Collector Edition.

A fun way to learn

LeapFrog Read with Me Scout and Violet, $39.99, available in green and purple at most major retailers.

Sparkup The Magical Book eReader, $49.95, available at Chapters/Indigo, indigo.ca.

V-Tech Stencil and Learn Studio, $29.95, available at Target, target.ca.

Fisher Price I-Jig Interactive Jigsaw Puzzle, $29.99, available at Target, target.ca.

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AGO
Art Gallery of Ontario

Craft a personal touch with gifts

HEATHER BEAUMONT
For Metro

There are many fun, new craft ideas to both give and enjoy this holiday season. OLIVEROMG/SHUTTERSTOCK

Stamped on Heather Baillie-Brown's heart is the desire to help others.

The Barrie, Ont., writer, photographer and filmmaker crafts holiday gifts for strangers along with the presents she makes for her loved ones. Over the years, she has donated homemade scarves, hats and knitted afghans to charities.

"If people want to be crafty and they don't have anyone to knit for, they can knit 'Boomer' caps for babies in Afghanistan through the Boomer's Legacy program," Baillie-Brown said. "I've done that. You can donate crafts to local Christmas charities to be distributed as gifts or sold to raise money for worthy causes."

The Boomer's Legacy Foundation (boomerslegacy.ca) is a Canadian charity that was initiated after the death of Cpl. Andrew (Boomer) Eykelenboom, who was killed in action in Afghanistan in August 2006.

This year, as with every holiday season, there are loads of fun, new craft ideas to both give and enjoy. Some knitting and crocheting projects can be time intensive. Check specialty arts and crafts' retailer Michaels' online decor guide for ideas categorized according to level of difficulty.

For simple ideas, consider personalized jewelry.

"String bungee cord with a charm or a single initial for a personal bracelet or necklace," said Jo Pearson, Michaels' creative expert. "Commemorate special events and people with scrapbook gifts or a single-framed page."

Fit scrapbooking paper to plain cork coasters, then add a coat of Mod Podge glue sealant to the finish for decorative coaster gifts for colleagues.

"Holiday wreaths make great gifts," Pearson said. "Use ribbon to match your recipients' holiday decor and add wooden initial letters for an easy and personalized gift."

Create gift tags from favourite photos of you and your recipient. Cut the photo into a circle, string ribbon through a hole-punch and tie it to the package.

Baking containers with holiday motifs are another way to make homemade treats more festive. Michaels and Williams-Sonoma, specialty retailer of home products, both stock holiday containers. Williams-Sonoma's Nordic Ware Star of David Bundt® cake pans will deliver a spectacular, six-point starred cake for family gatherings.

For Christmas celebrations, consider Williams-Sonoma's eight mini-cake loaf pan with classic seasonal decorations, a holiday cupcake stencil set, holiday cookie stamps, or pancake models.

"My 19-year-old son usually has his chums over during the holidays," Baillie-Brown said. "It's nice to have baking on hand because it really isn't Christmas without it."

On the road

Making commuting much more comfortable

Garmin Head-up Display — $149.99

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

It's estimated we spend nearly a month each year in our cars, SUVs and trucks, driving to work, running errands or driving the kids to and from events. Why not make someone's commute a little more comfortable this year with a gadget for the vehicle.

Garmin Head-up Display — $149.99
This unique GPS system takes navigation information from your smartphone and beams it onto the windshield. Get turn-by-turn directions, current speed, and estimated time of arrival without looking away from the road. The heads-up display automatically adjusts to ambient light so you can always see the information whether it's bright and sunny or dark.

Swift Hitch — $219
A camera backup system designed to help hitch a trailer or camper without the need of a second person. The magnetic mounted camera wirelessly sends video to a handheld monitor guiding you into the proper position. Dark outside? No problem. Swift Hitch has a night vision mode.

Pioneer AppRadio 3 — $499.99
The ultimate in-car entertainment system. Stream music from your phone, watch DVDs, or take advantage of dozens of popular apps on this beautiful seven-inch capacitive multi-touch screen. If you get lost you can always open one of six navigation apps to help you find your way. Knock $100 off the price tag if you can live without the DVD option.

Jabra Motion — $129.95
The safe way to take phone calls behind the wheel. This high-end Bluetooth headset adapts to the environment you are in, ensuring crystal-clear audio. The Jabra motion fits any ear, is easy to set up, and lets you take control to make calls using voice commands. It's also smart enough to go to sleep when not in use so the battery doesn't continually drain.

SpareOne Plus Emergency Phone — $79.99
The perfect gift to ensure your loved ones are safe on the road. This one-of-a-kind cellphone is powered by a single AA battery, which provides up to 10 hours of talk time. The phone comes in a waterproof bag (which you can talk through), has a panic siren and a built-in LED Torchlight that can signal for help if you become stranded on the road. This phone can keep its charge for up to 15 years if unused, even in extreme temperatures.

Secure Remote Bluetooth Remote Garage Door Opener — $149
No more copying keys, memorizing codes or fiddling with traditional garage door openers. With this device you can open your garage door using your smartphone. Works with iOS, Android and BlackBerry devices.

SiriusXM Lynx — $299
If you have never had satellite radio you have no idea what you are missing. It's like having hundreds of mixed tapes at your disposable. The Lynx lets you pause, rewind and replay live radio, and will alert you when your favourite radio shows are playing. This receiver can be used in the car or at home with optional docking accessories.

Speecup — $129.95
Disguised as a travel mug, this Bluetooth speaker fits into the cup holder of your vehicle. Gesture controls let you answer phone calls or skip music tracks without touching the device. Plus you have access to Apple's Siri or Samsung's S Voice on select phones.

Hipkey — $89.95
Never lose your car keys again. Attach this device to your key chain to allow tracking directly from your smartphone. You can also set an alarm to alert you if you forget your keys or if someone tries to take them. This device can be attached to electronics such as tablets, smartphones or even children.

Pioneer AppRadio 3 — $499.99, clockwise, from left, Swift Hitch — $219, Speecup — $129.95, Hipkey — $89.95, Jabra Motion — $129.95, SpareOne Plus Emergency Phone — $79.99, and SiriusXM Lynx — $299.

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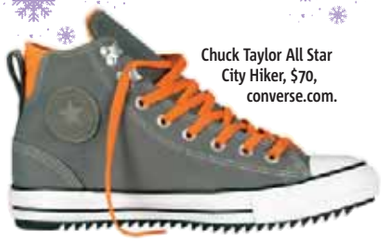

Chuck Taylor All Star City Hiker, $70, converse.com.

Canada Goose Men's Lupo Glove, $225, available at Sporting Life, Holt Renfrew, Harry Rosen, canada-goose.com.

Barbour Merino Cashmere Tartan Scarf, $100, available at Sporting Life stores, sportinglife.ca.

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Guilt-free Tiramisu. NEWS CANADA

Recipe. Guilt-free Tiramisu

Delight your guests this holiday season with this delicious yet surprisingly guilt-free tiramisu.

Ingredients:
- ½ cup (125 ml) warm, strong coffee
- 9 packets or 4½ tsp Pure Via Turbinado Raw Cane sugar and stevia blend sweetener
- ½ cup (125 ml) part-skim ricotta cheese
- ½ cup (125 ml) prepared light whipped topping
- ½ tsp (2 ml) vanilla extract
- 8 crisp ladyfingers
- 1 tsp (5 ml) unsweetened cocoa

Instructions:

1 Combine coffee and one packet of Pure Via Turbinado. Stir until the sweetener is dissolved. Let coffee cool until lukewarm.

2 Meanwhile, whisk together ricotta cheese, whipped topping, the additional Pure Via Turbinado sweetener and vanilla. Refrigerate until ready to use.

3 Place coffee in shallow bowl. Dip four of the ladyfingers into coffee and let stand about five seconds.

4 Remove and place two ladyfingers side by side on a plate for each tiramisu. Spread each tiramisu with ¼ of the ricotta mixture. Sprinkle each with ¼ teaspoon (1 ml) of the cocoa. Repeat dipping and layering. Discard any remaining coffee.

5 Refrigerate, covered with plastic wrap, at least two and up to eight hours before serving. Makes two servings.

NEWS CANADA

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Gingerbread Pie. NEWS CANADA

Updated tradition. Gingerbread Pie

Gingerbread is an iconic holiday treat enjoyed all over the world. So why not update this favourite tradition with a beautiful gingerbread pie? Ingredients like molasses, brown sugar and nutmeg deliver festive flavours in every bite, and cute pastry gingerbread men add a whimsical and stylish final touch.

Ingredients:
- 2 Tenderflake frozen deep dish pie shells, defrosted
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- ¾ cup (150 ml) unsalted butter
- ¾ cup (150 ml) brown sugar
- ¾ cup (150 ml) whipping cream
- ¼ cup (60 ml) molasses
- 3 egg yolks
- ¼ cup (60 ml) cornstarch
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ginger
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) nutmeg
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) cloves
- ½ tsp (2 ml) salt
- 1¼ cup (300 ml) milk
- ½ cup (125 ml) whipped topping
- White icing

Instructions:

1 Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C).

2 Bake one pie shell according to package directions. Remove the second pie shell from the foil pan and place on a lightly floured work surface. Using a two-inch (five-centimetre) gingerbread man-shaped cookie cutter, cut eight to 10 pieces and place on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Brush lightly with egg and bake for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from the oven and cool.

3 Heat butter and brown sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat, stirring occasionally until bubbly. Whisk in cream and molasses and stir until it begins to simmer.

4 Whisk together egg yolks, cornstarch, spices and salt in a small bowl. Slowly add a small amount of the hot mixture into the egg mixture, stirring constantly. Add the egg mixture back into the hot cream mixture and continue to stir over medium heat until thickened and just starting to boil.

5 Pour the filling into the baked pie shell. Cover the surface with plastic wrap directly on the filling and chill until set, at least four hours.

6 Decorate the gingerbread man pastry shapes with icing. Arrange shapes on top with whipped topping just before serving.

NEWS CANADA

Recipe. Turkey and Brie Puff Pastry Bites

Using a butter puff pastry is the host or hostess's best friend. Try this delectable nibble for your next party and your guests will be coming back for more.

Ingredients:

- ½ PC Butter Puff Pastry, thawed but still cold
- 5 ounces (150 grams) leftover roast turkey breast, finely diced
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) mayonnaise
- 1 package (200 grams) PC Double Cream Brie, rind removed and cheese cut into 24 equal pieces
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- 24 fresh parsley leaves

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 425 F (220 C).
2. Place puff pastry on work surface. Roll pastry out in one direction to form a rectangle; cut into 24 equal pieces. Press each piece into the cups of a 24-cup mini muffin pan, allowing some overhang. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. In a small bowl, stir together turkey and mayonnaise. Remove muffin pan from freezer; divide turkey mixture among the cups. Top each with a piece of Brie, pressing down slightly.
4. Bake in centre of oven for 20 to 22 minutes or until pastry is golden on bottom and cheese is melted and starting to brown.
5. Meanwhile, in small bowl, stir together Dijon and honey. Transfer pastry bites to a long platter; drizzle Dijon mixture over top and garnish with parsley leaves. Makes 24 servings.

NEWS CANADA

Turkey and Brie Puff Pastry Bites. NEWS CANADA

Superstar Eggnog Tarts. NEWS CANADA

Holiday dessert recipe. Superstar Eggnog Tarts

Creating an impressive holiday dessert table doesn't have to take hours in the kitchen. You can bake with style using easy-to-make recipes that both look beautiful and taste great. These cute Superstar Eggnog Tarts are perfect for any festive function.

Ingredients:

- 2 packages Tenderflake tart shells
- ¼ cup (60 ml) sugar
- 1 egg
- ⅓ cup (80 ml) evaporated milk
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) water
- 2 tsp (10 ml) amber or light rum
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) salt
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) nutmeg
- Pinch of cinnamon

Frosting:

- ¾ cup (175 ml) white icing
- ½ tsp (1 ml) nutmeg
- 1½ cups (375 ml) whipped topping

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C).
2. Arrange one package of tart shells on a baking sheet. Using an electric beater, beat together the sugar and eggs until light and fluffy. Stir in evaporated milk, water, rum, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon. Pour into the tart shells and bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until crust is golden and filling is set. Remove from the oven and cool.
3. Remove the remaining tart shells from the foil tins. Transfer to a lightly floured work surface and press to flatten. Using a 1½- to two-inch (3½- to five-centimetre) star-shaped cutter, cut a star from each piece of pastry. Place on a parchment paper lined baking sheet and bake for eight minutes or until nicely browned. Remove from the oven and cool completely.
4. Mix icing and nutmeg together and place in a small piping bag. Pipe a thin line of icing around the edges of each star.
5. Top each tart with 2 tbsp (30 ml) of whipped topping and garnish with a star.

NEWS CANADA

Liquid Assets

Holiday cheer sipper

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Last week was all about white wines for your holiday meal, so it's only right I suggest the right reds.

If you're convinced that only whites go with white meats, get over yourself. Reds can be an excellent match with poultry, especially when it's served old-school with plenty of savoury fixings and vegetal accompaniment.

He may not look it, but Tom turkey doesn't carry a lot of fat, which means you're going to want to avoid any red that is tannin heavy. Tannins love fat, so your bird will get lambasted if it meets a big-boned red like a New World Cabernet Sauvignon or a hip, Italian Aglianico (choose them if you're doing roast beef).

Take the bright and fruity path. Think California Zinfandel, New Zealand Pinot Noir, a French Beaujolais Cru or, my favourite, an Italian made with the Barbera grape.

From Piemonte, Bersano's 2011 Costalunga Barbera d'Asti ($11.95 - $14.99) is a glass full of strawberry, cherry, light earth and subtle spice that makes merry with turkey and all its eclectic Christmas plate mates.

Happy holidays! **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

A dash of sweet steals the Christmas spotlight

This recipe serves four. MARK SHAPIRO, FROM ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT COOKING (MCM BOOKS)

Roasted Chicken With Asian Glaze and Fruit Sauce. Tired of the same old turkey year after year? Be brave and try something new

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

This is a holiday entrée with a delicious fruit sauce instead of traditional gravy. You can use this over any poultry such as Cornish hen or even turkey. If you're using turkey, multiply the glaze and sauce by three.

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Place chicken in roasting pan.

2. Glaze: In bowl, mix garlic, ginger, honey, wine, chili flakes, margarine, coriander, salt and pepper to taste and stock; set half aside for sauce. Brush some of the remaining mixture over chicken. Bake for 60 minutes or until meat thermometer registers 160 F, basting with more honey mixture every 15 minutes.

3. Cut chicken into 4 quarters; place on serving dish and keep warm.

4. Sauce: Pour reserved honey mixture into small saucepan; stir in cornstarch, mixing well. Add chicken stock along with dates and apricots; cook over medium heat, stirring, for 2 minutes or until thickened. Pour over chicken. Remove skin before eating. **ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT COOKING (MCM BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

- 1 whole chicken

Glaze

- 1 tsp crushed garlic
- 1 tsp minced ginger root (or 1/4 tsp ground ginger)
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup sweet dessert wine (plum wine, Mirin or sweet Sake)
- Pinch chili flakes
- 1 tbsp margarine, melted
- Pinch dried coriander and/or cumin
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup chicken stock

Sauce

- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/4 cup chopped dates
- 1/4 cup chopped dried apricots

Would you like to be kept in the loop of the hottest openings and events in your city? To be notified of other notable events for young professionals, go to: notable.ca/signup.php.

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Just opened: The Carbon Bar

From the amazing team that brought us the glory that is Nota Bene comes The Carbon Bar, which opened recently at 99 Queen St. E. What's inside? A beautiful space housing beautiful people all looking for some beautiful food, like kettle corn, hamachi tartare, and jalapeno sausage. The wine list is as robust as the food.

New Year's Eve Day to Night at Drake One Fifty

Celebrate New Year's Eve in Bay Street-style at Drake One Fifty (150 York St.) in the Financial District. Ring in 2014 around the banker-inspired bar, or noshing under the indoor pergola. Enjoy cocktails and canapes earlier in the evening, or a beautiful dinner for two served family style as you await the epic countdown.

Just opened: Harvest Kitchen

At 124 Harbord St. along a stretch of already great eats you'll now find neighbourhood-friendly Harvest Kitchen, an adorable spot that's serving up bites of bliss. The menu is a mix of cuisines, from French to Asian to North American. All eats are favourites amongst Toronto's foodies, so expect Harvest Kitchen to gain city-wide adoration in no time.

Majestic NYE at the Fairmont Royal York

The very first New Year's Eve event to be held in the Fairmont Royal York's Concert Hall and Canadian Ballroom, Majestic NYE features a three-course dinner, drinks, dancing, and everything you might need to ring in 2014. The event, going down at 100 Front Street, is hosted by Fame Media and the 57 Social, and sees entertainment aplenty for a stellar night on the town.

NYE at Casa Loma

Quite possibly the chicest of all spots in the city that you can party it up in, Casa Loma's New Year's Eve 2014 event is one not to be missed. The grandeur of the castle (found at 1 Austin Terrace) provides the perfect backdrop for your midnight toast. Music, drinks, and stunning socialites will all be part and parcel of this NYE shindig.

Together New Year's Eve at Liberty Grand

Early bird tickets sold out in no time for the Liberty Grand's massive New Year's Eve 2014 party, this year dubbed Together. The complex, at 25 British Columbia Rd. in Exhibition Place, will be transformed into a whimsical world of unity as the city's tastemakers toast to the epic evening that is the last day of 2013.

How does a designer deck the halls?

Holiday decorating. In a season of traditions, there's still room to shake things up a bit

The holiday season is synonymous with tradition. But that doesn't mean you have to fill your home with the same holiday decorations in the same colour scheme every year.

"Until four years ago, I was Scrooge-y when it came to holiday decorating — a result of seeing the same old thing over and over again," says Brian Patrick Flynn, an interior designer from Los Angeles and executive producer of HGTV.com's Holiday House.

But after finding ways to "reinvent the look and feel of Christmas for my own home," Flynn says he "rediscovered how much fun seasonal styling can be when you make it your own."

Move the tree, and change the palette

A Christmas tree doesn't have to stay parked in one place. Flynn recommends putting a small tree on wheels (maybe in a vintage metal wagon or an old metal washtub with casters on the bottom) so you can change its location when you're entertaining to create space or to bring extra holiday style to a different room.

Another option is ditching red and green tree decorations for an understated colour palette.

"This year I created a tone-on-tone tree using all shades of light grey," Flynn says. "To do this right, it's all about having a balance of texture, finish, shape, scale and proportion."

Try a white tree if you'll be using light colours and neutrals, or a green tree with decorations in earth tones.

To shake up your tree's decorations, Jon Call of Mr. Call Designs suggests going with a theme.

"Last year for a client, I indulged in masses of vintage mercury-glass ornaments of all sizes and shapes. Silver was literally dripping off the tree. It was spectacular," he says. "This year we are changing it up a bit and creating a completely edible tree, including childhood favourites such as homemade popcorn balls, small sacks of chocolates tied with a ribbon and hung from the branches, and pungent gingerbread."

Or ditch the tree altogether

If you have minimal space, Call says you can skip the tree altogether without losing any holiday cheer. Instead, cluster together a bunch of white poinsettias. They set a holiday tone in a fresh way, he says, and in a large group look "almost like snowfall."

Or create your own "tree" out of branches: "In my kitchen, I love to fill a large galvanized pot with armfuls of branches full of red berries," Call says. "As the season progresses, I simply clip incoming cards to the arrangement so that everyone can enjoy. It's become a tradition over the years, and everyone loves to come and check out my 'family tree.'"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don't hold back

"The holidays are a time for indulgence, and that always means colour to me. Commit to a colour scheme and go for broke!"
Jon Call of Mr. Call Designs

For a creative twist on a traditional Christmas tree, designer Brian Patrick Flynn uses a muted colour palette of white, cream, gray and tan for a look that's understated and elegant. BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN, HGTV.COM HOLIDAY HOUSE

Make it all about the mantel

- "One of the most searched-for terms on HGTV.com is 'mantel decorating,'" Flynn says. For homes with a flat-panel TV mounted above the mantel, he has a high-tech idea: Burn images to DVD that co-ordinate with the accessories you lay out on your mantel, then let the DVD run during holiday entertaining.
- For one project, Flynn displayed colorful pop art images (including a reindeer by artist Jonathan Fenske) on the TV, and then put colorful items like candy in apothecary jars and brightly colored ornaments on the mantel "to make it all pop."

4 SPORTS

NBA

Bryant hit by injury bug again

Kobe Bryant is expected to miss about six weeks with an injured left knee, dealing the second major injury setback of the year to the Los Angeles Lakers' superstar guard.

An MRI exam on Thursday revealed Bryant has a fracture in his lateral tibial plateau — the top of his shinbone near his knee.

Bryant made his season debut with the Lakers Dec. 8 after nearly eight months away while recovering from a torn Achilles tendon. He apparently was hurt again Tuesday night in Memphis.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympics

U.S. delegate Boitano comes out

Olympic figure skating champion Brian Boitano came out Thursday, two days after he was named to the U.S. delegation for Sochi along with openly gay athletes Billie Jean King and Caitlin Cahow.

The 1988 gold-medal figure skater had always kept his personal life private, saying in a statement that "being gay is just one part of who I am." But U.S. President Barack Obama's decision to include openly gay athletes in the delegation is widely seen as a message to Russia about its treatment of gays and lesbians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maple Leafs' Bozak sets target date for return

NHL. Centre back on skates, hopes to be back from oblique injury in time for Winter Classic

Tyler Bozak isn't yet on the cusp of returning.

But when he's eligible to come off long-term injured reserve Dec. 29, the Toronto Maple Leafs centre figures his torn oblique will be healed up enough to get back into the lineup.

"It's still getting better every day. It feels pretty good now," Bozak said Thursday. "If there's a problem, maybe, but right now it looks like I'll be back right when IR ends."

Bozak has been out since Dec. 5 and missed Toronto's home game Thursday night against Phoenix. And with the Leafs having placed him on the long-term list, Bozak must also miss upcoming games against Detroit, the New York Rangers and Buffalo before being free to return against Carolina three days before the Winter Classic.

The 27-year-old skated with teammates Thursday at the but he's obviously on his own track.

Bozak's injury came with the Leafs already missing centre Dave Bolland, who still hasn't resumed skating after having a tendon in the back of his ankle severed in late October. The latest injury down the middle came Tuesday night against the Florida Panthers when impressive journeyman callup Trevor Smith broke a bone in his right hand blocking a shot. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No couch potato

"It's not fun to watch, it's never fun to watch."

Tyler Bozak on the Leafs' poor play heading into Thursday's game against the Coyotes

Coyotes Rostislav Klesla and Mike Smith try to clear Leafs forward David Clarkson from the front of the Phoenix net on Thursday night at Air Canada Centre. Toronto won 2-1 in a shootout. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mats Sundin GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Sundin pulls out of alumni game

Maple Leafs legend Mats Sundin says he won't be playing in the Alumni Showdown against the Detroit Red Wings on Dec. 31, part of the Winter Classic celebrations.

"I have had problems with my right knee for a while and I'm having surgery," Sundin told Torstar News Service. "I have not been able to skate this last year and I can't skate with my knee like this. I'm very disappointed, (not to be) able to play in the great alumni outdoor game and represent the Maple Leafs again."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tanaka deemed too big to leave Japan

Baseball. Change in posting rules could prevent pitcher with eye-popping numbers from coming to MLB

Pitcher Masahiro Tanaka wants to move to Major League Baseball next season but his Japanese team doesn't want to let him go.

MLB and Nippon Professional Baseball's new posting system caps the fee for players at $20 million, less than half what Japanese teams received for pitchers Yu Darvish and Daisuke Matsuzaka.

"I informed my team that I would like them to allow me to test my abilities in Major League Baseball next season," Tanaka said Tuesday after a meeting with Rakuten Eagles president Yozo Tachibana.

Tanaka, a 25-year-old right-hander, went 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA with the Rakuten Golden Eagles of the Pacific League during the regular season. He will not become eligible for free agency until after the 2015 season and can move to MLB only if the Eagles agree to post him.

Masahiro Tanaka pitches for Team Japan during a World Baseball Classic game in Tokyo in March. GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles, who won the Japan Series, voted against the new posting agreement on Monday and say they want Tanaka to remain with them.

"We told him he is very important to us and we'd like him to stay," Tachibana said.

Under the rules of the three-year agreement announced Monday, a Japanese club may make players available between Nov. 1 and Feb. 1 and may set a price of up to $20 million.

Starting with the day after a player is posted and continuing for 30 days, any big-league team willing to pay the fee may attempt to sign the player. A major-league team pays the posting fee only if it signs the player. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Posting apocalypse

$51.7M

Under the previous posting agreement, Texas got Yu Darvish from the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters before the 2012 season for $51,703,411 and gave him a $56-million, six-year deal.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	34	23	9	2	94	70	48
Montreal	36	21	12	3	91	76	45
Tampa Bay	34	20	11	3	93	82	43
Detroit	36	15	12	9	91	99	39
Toronto	36	17	16	3	99	105	37
Ottawa	36	14	16	6	101	118	34
Florida	35	13	17	5	81	110	31
Buffalo	34	8	23	3	59	98	19

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	36	25	10	1	112	78	51
Washington	34	18	13	3	107	102	39
Carolina	34	14	13	7	79	94	35
Philadelphia	34	15	15	4	81	93	34
NY Rangers	35	16	17	2	79	95	34
New Jersey	35	14	15	6	83	87	34
Columbus	34	14	16	4	87	95	32
NY Islanders	35	9	19	7	85	121	25

Wednesday's results
New Jersey 5 Ottawa 2
Pittsburgh 4 NY Rangers 3 (SO)
Thursday's games
All Times Eastern
Phoenix at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's games
Anaheim at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Florida at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Saturday's games
Calgary at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Phoenix at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	37	25	7	5	138	102	55
St. Louis	33	22	7	4	114	80	48
Colorado	33	22	10	1	96	78	45
Minnesota	36	20	11	5	84	83	45
Dallas	33	16	12	5	95	101	37
Nashville	34	16	15	3	78	95	35
Winnipeg	36	15	16	5	95	106	35

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	36	24	7	5	116	91	53
Los Angeles	35	23	8	4	97	68	50
San Jose	34	21	7	6	112	84	48
Vancouver	36	20	10	6	100	86	46
Phoenix	33	18	10	5	105	103	41
Calgary	34	13	16	5	86	108	31
Edmonton	36	11	22	3	93	123	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Columbus, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Minnesota at NY Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	19	30	49
Kane, Chi	20	26	46
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Getzlaf, Ana	16	23	39
Ovechkin, Wash	28	10	38
Tavares, NYI	13	25	38
Perry, Ana	22	15	37
Backstrom, Wash	8	29	37
Steen, StL	22	14	36
Thornton, SJ	5	31	36
Kunitz, Pgh	18	17	35
Sharp, Chi	16	18	34
Marleau, SJ	15	19	34
Seguin, Dal	18	15	33
Toews, Chi	13	20	33
Kessel, Tor	17	15	32
Ryan, Ott	16	16	32

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	20	5	.800	—
d-Miami	19	6	.760	1
Atlanta	14	12	.538	6½
d-Boston	12	15	.444	9
Detroit	13	14	.481	8
Charlotte	12	14	.462	8½
Washington	11	13	.458	8½
Toronto	9	14	.391	10
Chicago	9	15	.375	10½
Cleveland	9	15	.375	10½
Brooklyn	9	16	.360	11
New York	8	17	.320	12
Orlando	8	18	.308	12½
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	13½
Milwaukee	5	20	.200	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	—
Portland	22	5	.815	½
d-San Antonio	20	5	.800	½
d-L.A. Clippers	18	9	.667	3½
Houston	17	9	.654	4
Dallas	15	10	.600	5½
Phoenix	14	10	.583	6
Denver	14	10	.583	6
Golden State	14	12	.538	7
Minnesota	13	13	.500	8
L.A. Lakers	12	13	.480	8½
New Orleans	11	13	.458	9
Memphis	10	15	.400	10½
Sacramento	7	17	.292	13
Utah	7	21	.250	15

x - clinched playoff berth; y - division; z - conference.
Thursday's results
Chicago at Oklahoma City
San Antonio at Golden State
Friday's games
Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Utah at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Denver, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Boston at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

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35 Bloor St., #822, Toronto, ON. M4W 3Y3
E649 - JOHN SOUTH
9 Megan Ave., Scarborough, ON. M1E 4A6
E667 - TARA RANDALL
4070 Lawrence Ave. E, Apt #408, Scarborough, ON. M1E 2R2
E672 - SHENA THOMPSON
4331 Kingston Rd., Apt #63, Scarborough, ON. M1E 2M9
F882-F883 - VANESSA PIKE
68 Corporate Ave., Apt #232, Scarborough, ON. M1H 3H3
G1060 - DAVID BUZAGLO
49 Freemont St., Concord, ON. L4K 2N2

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A clash of opposing viewpoints is likely at work today. Because you need to get along with both sides, you must stay neutral. The best approach is to treat it all as a bit of a joke.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you find yourself up against a tough opponent today, you should back off and live to fight another day. The planets warn this is a battle you cannot win. The only sensible course is to withdraw, for now.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You don't have to be nice to people because you want to spare their feelings. If there is something that needs to be said, give it to them straight.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You would be wise to be on your guard over the next 24 hours as the planets warn someone you work or do business with is being more than a little deceitful. Don't judge others by what they say, judge them by what they do.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A moment's hesitation could cause you grief — at the very least you will kick yourself for not trusting your instincts. Don't listen to those who say you should be cautious. It may be good advice for them but it's not right for you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Check facts today, especially those that a colleague says are OK and you don't have to worry about. If you give them the green light to proceed now, you may regret it later.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may be tempted to do something drastic today but the planets warn the results are as likely to be negative as positive. Why not just wait a while and let the current situation work itself out?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Be careful what you say. You could easily go over the top and let slip something that causes trouble. It might also cost you financially if others get the impression that you can't hold your tongue.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You appear to be having second thoughts about a plan that previously you thought was the key to success. Maybe you are right to hesitate but you are going to have to make a choice and stick with it.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It would appear that in your haste to get ahead, you have overlooked some small but important detail. Identify your mistake, correct it, move on.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A minor dispute could easily get out of hand today, especially if you insist that you are in the right and everyone else is wrong. You're not the only one who is stubborn, so a standoff is likely.

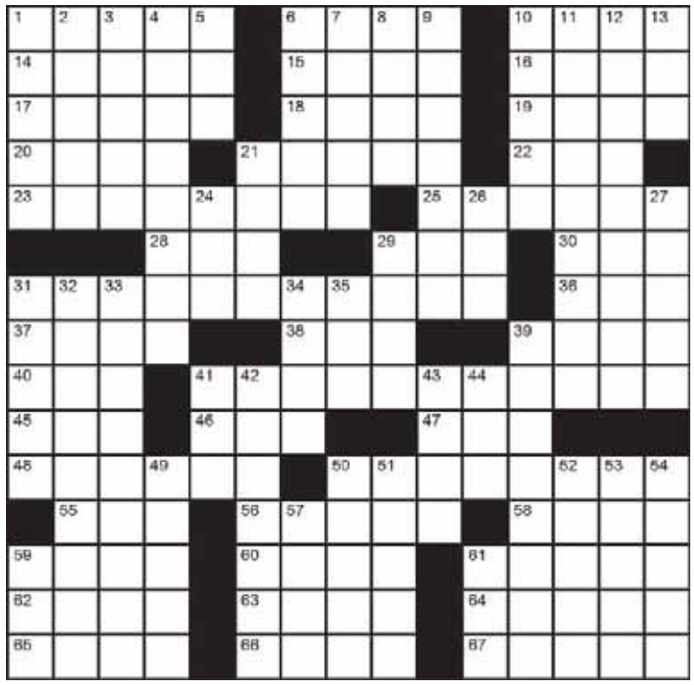
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
State your case today but don't get upset if others disagree and try to pick holes in your arguments. The world is a big enough place for all shades of opinion, so agree to disagree.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



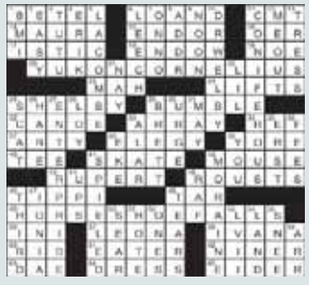
Across

1. December 21st, 1913: Invented by Arthur __ of the New York World, the greatest game at #12-Down
6. Season
10. Inscribe
14. Grease again
15. Woodwind
16. Q. "Is '__.' _ way to abbreviate any coming-in plane?" A. "Yes."
17. Nets
18. Volcanic flow
19. London lockup
20. Weapon: French
21. More kind
22. Mr. Asner's
23. Bag type
25. Legal scholar
28. Cousin __
29. Masc. opposite
30. Defunct airline
31. Canadian journalist on FOX News who was a MuchMusic host: 2 wds.
36. Particle
37. Ancient war god
38. Granny: German
39. Rope
40. Anderson Cooper's station
41. Will Ferrell's 'Anchorman': 2 wds.
45. Ms. Carpenter, for short
46. Alias, e.g.
47. Nice one?
48. Hockey's Conn __ Trophy
50. 1924... Simon & __: Publishers of the first book of #12-Downs (Trivia! Richard L. Simon is the father of the singer/songwriter at #9-Down)
55. Christmas __
56. Archaic anesthetic
58. 'Slithy' Lewis Carroll creature
59. Cuckoos
60. Young farm animal
61. Fine cottons
62. Going __ (Arguing): 2 wds.
63. Turkey, chicken, etc.
64. Fragrance
65. Unchanged: 2 wds.
66. Building extensions
67. "You're still the one _ ___ good night..." (Shania Twain line)

Down

1. __ havoc
2. Long for
3. Montreal-born actress Ms. Shearer (b.1902 - d.1983)
4. What a bowling ball could knock over: 2 wds.
5. Chicago trains
6. __ acid (Romaine lettuce stuff)
7. Surprised, taken __
8. Zero, in tennis
9. Bit of Carly Simon's "You're So Vain": "Then you flew your __ __ up to Nova Scotia..."
10. Gung-ho
11. Custom
12. Puzzle celebrating its 100th Anniversary!
13. Mr. Holbrook
21. International†org.
24. Gibraltar, e.g.
26. Hmms...
27. Actress Jessica
29. Herr's wife
31. Mr. Black's
32. Christmas Tree decorations
33. English king: name + Roman Numeral
34. __ fide
35. Diplomatic bldg.
39. Pool table prop: 2 wds.
41. Hurray!
42. American painter Georgia
43. Industrial region of Germany
44. Wildebeest
49. Quizzes
50. Wrap
51. Lockups
52. Moviedom's Marisa
53. Linda of "Dynasty"
54. Respites
57. Hammer
59. US driving org.
61. 23rd Greek letter

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		6		7	1	5	
				9				7
5						9		6
	2		5			8	3	
				1				
	9	4			8		1	
4		7						3
9			2					
	5	2	9		3		6	

Yesteday's Sudoku

7	3	8	2	4	5	9	6	1
4	5	6	8	9	1	7	3	2
2	1	9	3	7	6	4	8	5
9	8	3	1	5	4	6	2	7
5	2	4	6	3	7	1	9	8
1	6	7	9	2	8	5	4	3
8	7	5	4	6	2	3	1	9
3	4	1	7	8	9	2	5	6
6	9	2	5	1	3	8	7	4

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0°/-1°
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